

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. ROSS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen "Steve" J. Ross for his more than 40 years of faithful service to communities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

During the last two years, the residents, businesses and all taxpayers of West Pikeland Township, Chester County have benefitted immeasurably from Steve's breadth of experience and tremendous leadership as Township Manager.

Prior to taking the helm in West Pikeland, Steve had a distinguished career spanning nearly 30 years as Township Manager in West Whiteland Township, Chester County. He has been an outstanding steward of public finances and played a critical role in helping a region experiencing phenomenal growth protect its open space and natural resources, enhance its recreational opportunities, and improve its infrastructure.

The West Pikeland Township Board of Supervisors will recognize Steve for his exemplary efforts on December 28, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Stephen J. Ross for his extraordinary commitment to public service and dedication to making southeastern Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and raise a family.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS CONRADO JAVIER JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young, brave soldier who was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Private First Class Conrado Javier Jr. of Marina, California was only nineteen years old. It is with a heavy heart that I wish to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Conrado Javier Jr.

Private First Class Conrado Javier Jr. served in the United States Army and was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment based in Vilseck, Germany. He was serving a tour in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. On Sunday, December 19, 2010, in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, the vehicle he driving in struck an improvised explosive device. Pfc. Javier was unable to recover from his wounds sustained in the deadly explosion.

Conrado Javier Jr. is the fifth service member from my district to pay the ultimate sacrifice while defending our country in Operation Enduring Freedom. Sadly, he is the youngest service member from my district to lose his life

in Afghanistan. There are no words that can fill the far reaching potential of this young man. However, I have no doubt he touched many lives during his very short time on Earth and his life will continue through them.

Conrado attended Seaside High School and was a member of the school's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. It is evident he was dedicated to serving his country and possessed the strengths of a leader. Some may say his strongest value was being a loyal friend, who put others before him.

Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask for my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Conrado Javier Jr. I extend the sincere condolences of the House to his mother, Julia Dominga Javier Diaz; his father, Conrado Javier; and the seven siblings he leaves behind. Private Javier, we salute you!

KAY EHALT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Kay Ehalt for her outstanding service to our community.

Kay Ehalt has made a life of caring for others. She has raised two sons and a daughter. She puts her heart and soul into creating gift baskets that are creative and unique and adds the personal touch to make each recipient feel cherished.

Kay has been involved with the Kiwanis for many years and travels annually with the Children's Hospital Jungle Mobile. The Jungle Mobile is an ambulance converted into a safety education classroom on wheels. It travels to rural areas to teach kids about fire safety, water safety and how to call 911.

In addition, Kay is an avid supporter of the Jefferson Foundation's Crystal Ball. Volunteering her time for the event and donating items for the silent auction. Whenever an organization needs something for auctions, fundraisers or decorations, Kay is always offering her services or her baskets without being asked.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kay Ehalt for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

AMERICA COMPETES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5116, the America COM-

PETES Act. To maintain economic growth and a high standard of living, our nation must remain competitive in a global economy. To be competitive, U.S. companies must engage in trade, preserve market shares, and provide sustainable products, processes, and services. Scientific and technological advances serve as critical components of economic growth because they contribute to the creation of new goods, services, jobs, and increased productivity. Our country is in need of innovative concepts and ideas to strengthen our economy both domestically and internationally. The America COMPETES Act will increase the nation's investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM. Further, COMPETES provides critical federal investment in science through research and education. I am pleased that the 111th Congress will reauthorize this law, and I am pleased that it contains some important elements to broaden the participation of groups of Americans who are underrepresented in STEM fields, such as women and racial or ethnic minorities.

According to the Census Bureau, 39 percent of the population under the age of 18 is a racial or ethnic minority. Yet, in 2003, only 4.4 percent of U.S. science and engineering jobs were held by African Americans and only 3.4 percent by Hispanics. In 2008, the American Community Survey reported that 10.3 percent of the total U.S. population were in the Professional, Scientific, Management and Administrative Services industry; however, only 7.7 percent of Cambodians, 6.8 percent of Hmong, and 5.2 percent of Laotians actually held these types of jobs. Further, women represent only a little more than one quarter of our science and technology workforce. Many experts maintain that the ability of the U.S. to produce enough scientists will fall far short unless we take strong action to develop the potential of women and minorities. Thus, broadening participation efforts are critical to meeting the growing demand for U.S. workers with STEM skills and to improving American competitiveness globally.

Although minorities have increased their share of degrees awarded in the sciences, poor preparation in science and mathematics is a major factor limiting the access of these citizens to careers in the STEM fields. H.R. 5116 helps improve secondary STEM education by requiring federal agencies to report how they are disseminating federally funded STEM education resources to practitioners, including to teachers and administrators at high-needs schools. Further, it requires the establishment of an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs that must include an assessment of the effectiveness of the programs and the rates of participation of underrepresented minorities in such programs. An increased investment in STEM-based programs will offer more high-level science and mathematics courses in high school, enhance undergraduate and graduate degrees in science and engineering, and solidify employment in science and engineering positions in this global economy. The National Science

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Foundation will receive substantial funds to develop and implement a policy for the broader impacts review criterion that will result in improving the effectiveness and impact of activities to broaden participation within STEM. Such a policy is long overdue. We spend billions of federal dollars for science advancements but have limited requirements for the institutions receiving these dollars to give back to the nation in terms of helping institutions or students beyond their walls improve their access to quality science.

I support the bill because it advances our nation in the STEM areas; however, I am disappointed that many of the provisions to broaden participation that were included in the House-passed version were absent from the final version. I promise to continue to work to ensure that all Americans have access to high quality STEM education and careers. I support H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Act of 2010; this bill will enhance our present practices in science and our economic strength in the global marketplace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 659, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO FERRARO MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, P.A.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding medical practice Ferraro Medical Associates, P.A., which is celebrating its 65th Anniversary of dedicated service to its patients, and by extension, the greater community. It is only fitting that Ferraro Medical Associates, and its late founder Dr. Stephen P. Ferraro, be honored in this permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the comfort and care that it has provided to so many Paterson families.

Dr. Stephen P. Ferraro was born in 1920 in Paterson, NJ to Angelo and Natalizia who emigrated from Sicily to the United States. They had four children, two of whom died untimely deaths leaving Stephen and Joseph. Stephen's parents ingrained in their sons the importance of education, and became successful themselves, owning multiple properties in Paterson.

Dr. Ferraro attended School No. 15 and graduated Eastside High School in 1937. In high school he was very athletic but music intrigued him most and he played the violin for the Eastside orchestra. After graduation he earned a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame University in 1941. Stephen developed a passion for medicine and flying which lasted a lifetime.

In 1946 Dr. Ferraro obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Georgetown Univer-

sity Medical School. He graduated in the top of his class. He returned to Paterson to pursue his career. He did a rotating internship at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson. In 1947 he was certified and passed the State of New Jersey Board as Doctor in Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Ferraro then decided to join the United States Air Force University School of Medicine in Randolph, Texas and became a USAF Flight Surgeon, spending three years in Okinawa. In the Air Force he saw many in great need and he was determined to always be a "people doctor" and provide his service where the need was greatest.

By 1950, when he returned from spending four years at Boston City Hospital, becoming Chief Surgical Resident, he had met a nurse named Betty. He went to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and became Chief Surgical Resident from 1954–1956. Betty followed him and worked alongside him as his operating room nurse. They later married at St. Anthony Church in Paterson and had six children—Stephen Jr., Natalie, Angelo, Lisa, Lucia and Barbara.

Dr. Ferraro never forgot the city he came from. In 1957 he became attending surgeon of St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center in Paterson. He soon decided to open his own practice at 414 Broadway. Betty was always by his side and was his nurse at the practice. Together they were the perfect "team." The office was on the first floor and their apartment was on the upper levels. He became the Co-Chief of Department of Surgery at Fairlawn Memorial Hospital, attending surgeon at Saddle Brook Hospital, Police Surgeon and City of Paterson physician, Medical Director of Nabisco Brands, Inc., assistant professor at Seton Hall University Department of Surgery and also became Medical Examiner for Federal Aviation-Class A, and USCIS Civil Surgeon. Dr. Ferraro was a distinguished and respected physician who with all his qualities provided the best to his patients and left a remarkable legacy to his children.

Dr. Ferraro's children admired their father for instilling the importance of education in them. When his children were very young he would always encourage them to read. They spent time with their father around the office. Dr. Ferraro was a great role model, allowing them to see the medical world in his office as one of the choices for their lives.

Lisa Ferraro followed her father's footsteps and graduated from Ross University Medical School. In 1984–1987 she completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson and immediately went to work with her father. Dr. Lisa Ferraro was Board Certified in Internal Medicine in 1987 and joined attending staff Internal Medicine at SJHMC.

She has worked as school physician for Public Schools Nos. 5, 8, 28 and Kilpatrick School. She was assistant Medical Director at Nabisco from 1987–1992 and has taught first year medical students from UMDNJ, as well as forth year foreign medical students. In 2000 she was appointed as Civil Surgeon for USCIS. In February 2010 she became Certified in Aesthetic Medicine.

Dr. Ferraro left a truly wonderful legacy in Paterson. In April 1996 Dr. Stephen and Dr. Lisa Ferraro registered the office as a corporation, Ferraro Medical Associates, P.A. Despite the challenges, the office still serves our com-

munity at 414 Broadway. Presently the practice provides medical care to approximately five hundred patients a month. It is estimated that close to half a million patients have passed through the doors at 414 Broadway.

Although Dr. Stephen P. Ferraro departed from this earth in 2002, he left a legacy of perseverance as well as a well recognized practice, which continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Lisa Ferraro. Her siblings are all successful professionals in their fields. Stephen P. Ferraro, Jr. M.D., is an orthopaedic surgeon in Redding, California, Angelo Ferraro, M.D., a cardiologist, Spokane, Washington, Lucia Ferraro, M.D., an anesthesiologist and Critical Care, Sherman Oaks, California, Natalia Ferraro is a homemaker and professional photographer and Barbara Tabano is a homemaker and operates a family business, The Sock Company, with her husband Jim.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of wonderful people in my District. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join all of the patients and friends of the Ferraro family, all those who have been helped throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions they have made to the community in Paterson and beyond.

FEDERAL GRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

I was proud to bring millions of federal dollars home to local taxpayers. New Yorkers pay more in federal taxes than New York receives in federal funding support, so I worked hard to bring additional dollars back home for local projects, thereby reducing the burden on local property taxpayers.

ORANGE COUNTY

Obtained \$19.6m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for infrastructure upgrades and renovations at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Obtained \$4.4m from the U.S. Department of Transportation for improved runway lighting and resurfacing at Stewart Airport, thereby increasing its air traffic capacity. The new lighting improves both energy efficiency and public safety during take offs and landings.

Obtained \$3.6m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for repairs and renovations at the Stewart Air National Guard base.

Obtained over \$3.5m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for energy efficiency improvements in Orange County.

Obtained \$2.3m from the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District, including \$1.5m in federal impact aid and \$800,000 in federal funding to improve science and technology programs.

Obtained \$2m in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to construct a new water filtration plant for the Village of Warwick.

Obtained \$1.33m in federal funding to support the Newburgh-Beacon ferry enabling easier access to public transportation for commuters.

Obtained \$597,000 from the Department of Homeland Security for five local fire departments, including Greenville Fire Department; the Slate Hill and New Hampton Fire Departments in Wawayanda; and the Johnson and the Unionville Fire Departments in Minisink.

Obtained \$564,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for improvement projects at Greenwood Lake.

Obtained \$394,000 in federal funding to replace the Hambletonian Water Main in Goshen which improved water quality and saved property tax dollars.

Obtained \$245,600 in federal funds for the Hudson Valley Agricultural Viability Program that will create jobs and attract private investment in local farms.

Obtained \$110,000 for the Port Jervis Police Department to upgrade their outdated communications system.

Obtained \$160,000 in federal funding for the Monroe Police Department.

Obtained \$95,300 in federal funding for St. Anthony Community Hospital in Warwick for their Wound Care Program.

Obtained a \$78,683 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Dept of Justice to improve public safety in Orange County through increased police patrols and improved equipment and technology.

Assisted in obtaining almost \$72,000 for Museum Village.

Obtained a \$66,500 Department of Homeland Security grant for the South Blooming Grove Fire District.

Obtained \$60,000 for the Woodbury Police Department.

Obtained \$40,000 for the Quassaick Bridge Fire District.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Obtained over \$13m for improvements to I-684.

Obtained \$6.75m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for infrastructure upgrades and renovations of patient care areas at the FDR Veterans Hospital in Montrose.

Obtained \$6.1m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for infrastructure improvements at the Camp Smith National Guard Training Site in Cortlandt.

Obtained \$5m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a water treatment plant for the Peach Lake community in North Salem. The new water treatment plant will help restore the quality of the lake and create local jobs.

Obtained almost \$2m for improvements at the Croton-Harmon train station including flood prevention and infrastructure upgrades.

Obtained \$1.96m in federal funding for reconstruction and improvements to Route 6 in Cortlandt.

Assisted in obtaining \$1.3m from the Dept of Energy for the Bedford-Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition.

Obtained over \$1.1m for improvements to the Annsville Circle in Cortlandt.

Obtained \$665,000 in federal funding to improve the Peekskill Downtown Business District including sidewalk improvements, landscaping, and lighting upgrades on Main Street.

Obtained \$332,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Westchester County

Forensic Science Laboratory, to improve the quality and timeliness of medical examiner services, thereby reducing the case backlog.

Obtained \$325,000 from the federal Drug Free Communities Support Program for programs sponsored by the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, Alliance for Safe Kids in Cortlandt Manor, and the Town of Cortlandt.

Obtained over \$300,000 for programs at the Yorktown Senior Center.

Obtained \$196,000 in federal funding for improvements at the South Salem library.

Obtained \$120,000 from the Department of Homeland Security for the Goldens Bridge Volunteer Fire Department.

Assisted in obtaining \$115,000 for the Katonah Museum of Art.

Obtained 98,400 in federal funding for A-HOME to build an affordable home for a first responder in Lewisboro, using the most state of the art energy efficient technologies.

Obtained \$95,300 in federal funding for the new emergency department at the Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

Obtained \$87,000 for the Katonah Fire Department.

Obtained \$70,000 in federal funding for the Pound Ridge Police Department for communications systems that will improve emergency response capabilities.

Obtained \$47,000 in federal funding for education programs at the Van Cortlandt Manor historic site in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Obtained \$8.22m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for infrastructure and energy efficiency improvements at Castle Point Veterans Hospital.

Obtained \$3.6m from the U.S. Department of Transportation for improvements in public transportation including local busses and bus facilities in Poughkeepsie.

Obtained \$2.4m for the development and manufacture of night vision goggles by E-Magin, located in Dutchess County. These goggles improve the safety of our troops in the field, while creating local manufacturing jobs.

Obtained \$330,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help retrofit stormwater systems in East Fishkill and Beekman.

Obtained \$314,000 for Hudson River Housing in Poughkeepsie to assist in rehabilitating affordable homes and creating opportunities for local financing.

Obtained \$196,000 in federal funding for the Village of Wappingers Falls to create Consentino Park.

Secured Dyson Foundation grant funding of \$108,000 for Arlington High School's club ACTION students to install solar panels on the roof of the High School.

Obtained \$98,600 for the Glenham Fire District.

Obtained \$86,000 in federal funding for technology improvements at the St. Francis Hospital emergency room.

Obtained \$77,000 for the Fishkill Fire Department.

Obtained \$66,000 in federal funding to install solar panels on the Beacon Municipal Building.

Obtained \$61,750 from the Department of Homeland Security for the Wappingers Falls Fire Department.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Obtained \$1.9m from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a water treat-

ment plant for the Peach Lake community in Southeast. The new water treatment plant will help restore the quality of the lake and create local jobs.

Obtained \$1.6m for upgrades to roads in Kent.

Obtained \$400,000 in federal funding for Putnam Valley for their Lake Oscawana Management and Restoration Plan, saving money for local property taxpayers while improving water quality.

Obtained \$192,000 in federal funding for Putnam Hospital Center's comprehensive cancer care program.

Obtained \$190,000 from the Department of Homeland Security for the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department.

Obtained \$145,000 for the Carmel Police Department for a police vehicle video system.

Obtained \$125,000 from the federal Drug Free Communities Support Program for programs implemented through Putnam's Council for Alcoholism and Other Drugs.

Obtained \$106,000 for equipment for the Kent Fire District.

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Obtained over \$15m for improvements to the Palisades Parkway.

Obtained \$2.5m for road improvements in downtown Haverstraw.

Obtained \$383,000 in federal funding for the Stony Point Ambulance Corps.

Obtained \$352,500 in federal funding for youth gang prevention programs.

Helped obtain \$297,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for the North Rockland Central School District.

Obtained \$188,000 for the Thiells-Roseville Fire District.

Obtained \$66,000 for the Stony Point Police Department to maintain a full time school resource officer at the James A. Farley Middle School.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Casework: One of the aspects of the job that I find most rewarding is the ability to assist local constituents with individual problems. In many of these cases the constituent needs assistance cutting through the federal bureaucracy to get the attention they need to their individual situation. Although I believe that people shouldn't need to turn to their Congressional office in order to get their cases resolved, I am happy to be able to assist when such instances occur.

My Congressional office resolved thousands of constituent service cases, which included providing assistance to Veterans, Seniors with Medicare and Social Security concerns, foreclosure and mortgage assistance to homeowners, families seeking adoptions, and expediting passports. The Congressional office provided assistance to constituents trying to reach family members during natural disasters overseas such as Haiti and Chile. In many of these cases our assistance made a real difference in people's daily lives.

Some specific examples of the hundreds of successful results achieved by the Congressional office are described below.

Veterans: Obtained well over \$2 million in retroactive payments and benefits for individual local veterans earned but never received from the Veterans Administration due to administrative backlogs and errors. These awards ranged from a few dollars to over \$100,000 depending on the type of injury, level of disability, and length of the VA delay in processing the case.

Successfully assisted many local Veterans in receiving long over due combat medals such as medals from World War 2 for a Mahopac veteran and several Purple Heart recipients.

Awarded the prestigious Air Medal to former flight crewmembers of the 336th Medical Detachment, and Army Reserve Helicopter Ambulance unit in a ceremony at Stewart Airport. The 60 men and women of the 336th Medical Detachment, trained as Medevac pilots, helicopter crew chiefs and medics, evacuated sick and wounded soldiers from the battlefield. Due to adverse field conditions and administrative oversight, the unit's flight crews did not receive their Air Medals until my office intervened on their behalf.

Social Security: Assistance was provided to constituents such as explaining eligibility for disability benefits; facilitating communication between beneficiaries and local SSA offices; assisting in setting up payment schedules for overpayments to beneficiaries' accounts; reinstatement of disability benefits that were incorrectly stopped; expediting appeal hearings, expediting the processing of retroactive checks in favorable disability cases that included amounts in excess of \$100,000; removal of overpayments that were mistakenly put onto beneficiaries' records; and assisting with the appeal of an overpayment waiver request.

For example—

Expedited a Social Security appeals hearing for a constituent who suffered major spinal injuries, was unable to work and facing bankruptcy. The case was found fully favorable to the constituent.

Expedited a retroactive payment in a Social Security disability case for \$79,000.

Helped get a Social Security disability appeals hearing for a woman suffering from a tick-borne illness similar to Lyme's Disease. The appeal was expedited and she was awarded more than \$1,800 in monthly benefits and more than \$65,000 in retroactive benefits, and found eligible for Medicare.

Medicare: Facilitated reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment and other services.

Helped remove surcharge on Part B, premium and processing of retroactive payment.

Internal Revenue Service: Expedited processing of refund and economic stimulus payments.

Helped change filing status for taxpayer.

Department of Labor: Challenged denial of prescription coverage for a drug that was in a beneficiary's plan.

Assisted in having overpaid monthly COBRA premium credited toward future monthly premiums.

Assisted with having COBRA premium reduction applied to several beneficiaries who did not initially receive it.

Federal Trade Commission: Worked with constituents and relevant credit agencies to fix mistakes on credit reports.

Visiting Washington DC: When constituents, school groups, and local organizations visit Washington DC, my office helps arrange tours, and can help with other aspects of the visits. I make every effort to personally greet local visitors. In 2009 my office arranged and gave over 700 tours of the Capitol to local families, school classes, and other visitors from the 19th Congressional District. The office also assisted with information including assistance in arranging for tours of other significant sites in Washington.

Service Academy Nominations: Each year my Congressional office submits nominations of local students to our nation's military service academies including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (USMA), Naval (USNA), Air Force (USFA), and Merchant Marine (USMMA) Academies. I consider it a great honor to be able to nominate top local students who will become the next generation of military leaders. During my two terms in office, I was proud to serve on the U.S. Military Academy's Board of Visitors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, on December 21, 2010, I missed rollcall vote numbers 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, and 663. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 657, "yes" on rollcall 658, "yes" on rollcall 659, "yes" on rollcall 660, "yes" on rollcall 661, "yes" on rollcall 662, and "yes" on rollcall 663.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, on December 21, 2010, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to a medical necessity.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: roll No. 657—"nay"; roll No. 658—"aye"; roll No. 659—"nay"; roll No. 660—"nay"; roll No. 661—"nay"; roll No. 662—"nay"; roll No. 663—"aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend to several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662 and 663.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 660, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no."

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W.
McCULLOUGH III

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the story of an outstanding individual, Mr. George W. McCullough, III, who will visit New Jersey's 8th District on Sunday, December 12, 2010, for he is a great example of service to our Nation and communities.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for his story is a true embodiment of the American Dream.

George W. McCullough, III serves as Supreme Governor of the Loyal Order of Moose for 2010–2011. He was elected to this post, which also serves as chairman of the Moose International Board of Directors, at the 122nd International Convention in Nashville in July 2010. He had previously served as Supreme Jr. Governor in 2009–2010, and Supreme Prelate during 2008–09.

He is a Life Member of Charlotte, NC Lodge 1113, having been sponsored by his father in 1969. He immediately took an active role, serving on all standing and special committees, and holding all chairs, including Past Governor. He stepped in as acting Administrator for an eight month period. He has been an active Ritualist for more than 20 years, and has been honored as an International Champion in Ritual Competition.

He has served on all the committees and chairs of WENOCA Moose Legion 78 and is a Past North Moose. He has served the North Carolina Moose Association on several District committee posts, as District President, and on most Association Committees; he is a Past President of the Association by Service. He was also conferred the honor of Past President by both the Louisiana and Minnesota Moose Associations.

Mr. McCullough served on the International Community Service Committee before his appointment to the Mooseheart Board of Directors in 1994. A member of the 150 Division of the Moose 25 Club, he received the Fellowship Degree of Honor in 1978 and the Pilgrim Degree of Merit in 1990. He was awarded the Shining Star as International Moose of the Year for 1995.

He is an ordained minister of the Baptist Church, and he is a U.S. Army combat veteran with service in Vietnam, holding the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart among other decorations. He and his wife Sue reside in Charlotte, where he owns and operates McCullough & Associates Auto Electric. The McCulloughs have two daughters, two sons, a daughter-in-law and two grandsons.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Mr. George W. McCullough, III.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, George's family and friends, all the members of the Loyal Order of Moose, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mr. George W. McCullough, III to our Nation.

JENNIFER FRIEDNASH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Jennifer Friednash for her outstanding service to our community.

Jennifer works full time as a real estate attorney, but always finds time to teach her kids the value of volunteering through leading by example. She has been an active member and fundraiser for Project PRIDE, which constructed an outdoor classroom alongside Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

Jennifer's work doesn't stop there. She is an active committee member of the Jefferson Economic Council, chair of a committee that provides junior NAIOP members an opportunity to learn about the real estate industry from seasoned professionals and has been a provisional instructor for the Colorado Association of Realtors.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jennifer Friednash for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**IKE SKELTON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2011**

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters on H.R. 6523 for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 6523, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 6523 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of this bill by the House.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERV-
ICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,
*Chairman, House Committee on Science and
Technology, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6523, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Science and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Science and Technology is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over these matters.

During consideration of this bill on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange of letters be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I was absent due to personal family matters, but if present, I would have voted "yes" on:

S. 3481—Amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution.

S. 372—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 6523—Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

**STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT
UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF
BAHA'I RELIGIOUS MINORITY IN
IRAN**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express both my deep concern and the deep concern of some of my constituents about the unjust imprisonment of several members of a religious minority in Iran. In particular, I wish to speak of the member of the Baha'i faith who have been persecuted and imprisoned in Iran. My home district in Chicago has a rich diversity of people from all backgrounds and faiths, and I am fortunate to have Baha'is as part of this rich diversity. The Baha'i faith is a peaceful religion that teaches the oneness of humanity and that all forms of prejudice should be eliminated.

Some of you will recall that in 2009 I was one of the co-sponsors to House Resolution 175. That resolution condemned the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. H. Res. 175 passed with 407

"aye" votes on October 22, 2009. However, some of my constituents have informed me that the persecution and suppression of the Baha'i faith in Iran persist with no relief in sight.

In 2009 the international press reported that seven Baha'i leaders in Iran were unjustly arrested and held in prison without knowing the charges for their arrest for approximately 20 months.

The unjust prosecution of these seven particular Baha'is was condemned by international leaders and drawn into our national awareness for a short time. Those seven Baha'is are real people with families, who continue to suffer injustice because of their peaceful religious beliefs. The more disturbing fact is that those seven Baha'i leaders are merely the ones that made the headlines. There are approximately 48 additional Baha'is currently imprisoned in Iran. Approximately 132 Baha'is have been arrested and released on bail to await trial, and another 92 Baha'is have been sentenced to imprisonment. In the last decade, hundreds of Baha'is have been prosecuted and imprisoned for their religious beliefs. But that is not the only degradation that Baha'is in Iran must face. Baha'is have been dismissed from their jobs, expelled from universities, and deprived of their property and pensions, all because of their religious beliefs.

Our national consciousness would not be so aware of this unjust and unfair treatment if it had not been for yet another unjust prosecution of a young American journalist, Roxana Saberi, in 2009. While Roxana shared a prison cell with two of the female Baha'i leaders in Evin prison, she was astounded by the tranquility of her Baha'i cell mates even as they faced harsh conditions and uncertainty about their future. Fortunately, Roxana was freed from prison and has returned safely to the United States; however, those seven Baha'i leaders remain in prison and were sentenced to 10 years of confinement in one of the most dreadful prisons in Iran.

In short, the Baha'i faith teaches tolerance, patience, peace and self-investigation of the truth. Yet, Baha'is are singled out and marked from persecution and ridicule from the class room to the court room and from the lunch room to the laboratory. We have our own history of unjust treatment in this country and the grievous and slow healing wounds from such pernicious and repugnant conduct can still be felt today. However, the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion in our great country have contributed greatly to the healing of our society.

I believe each and every human being has a fundamental right to freedom of religion that should not be curtailed or circumscribed by the coincidence of one's citizenship in a particular nation. The freedom in our country to choose how to peacefully worship God is something many of us take for granted. We need only consider the unjust and inhumane treatment of Baha'is in Iran to realize that this freedom is not available to everyone in the world.

I agree with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she condemned the sentencing of the Baha'i leaders and stated that the "United States is committed to defending religious freedom around the world, and we have not forgotten the Baha'i community in Iran."

I speak to you today as a reminder that religious persecution remains a fact of life in our

world and that the plight of the Baha'is in Iran is a poignant example of injustice. On behalf of my Baha'i constituents, I ask that you lend your voice to mine, so that we may create a chorus of diverse voices against the type of blatant religious persecution that we are witnessing in the unjust treatment of Baha'is in Iran.

COUNTERING IRAN'S NUCLEAR & TERRORIST THREATS, THE OPPOSITION'S ROLE: WHAT ARE THE U.S. POLICY OPTIONS?

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to insert into the RECORD excerpts of remarks made at a symposium sponsored by Executive Action, LLC: "Countering Iran's Nuclear & Terrorist Threats, The Opposition's Role: What Are the U.S. Policy Options?" held at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, DC on Friday, December 17, 2010.

MICHAEL MUKASEY, FORMER ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

This is one of those moments in history when we know that future generations are going to ask what we did to advance good and what we did to resist evil

I'm a lawyer, and lawyers make their cases with facts and law and policy. So let's look at some facts, and some law, and some policy, and see whether the case is there. The history of the relationship between the United States and the Iranian regime since the 1979 revolution can be summed up as a series of attempts by the United States to, as the diplomats say, engage the Iranian regime, each attempt less successful than the one that preceded it. I'm not going to go through that entire history, but an important part of it begins in the 1990s, during the Clinton administration, when the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, also known as the MEK, was designated by the Secretary of State under U.S. law as a foreign terrorist organization and that designation regrettably continues to this day

The MEK is the only organization of Iranians, both inside Iran and outside Iran that opposes the current regime that favors a government in Iran that is democratic, secular, non-nuclear, and a republic. Again, this is not one of the few organizations that fit that description; it is the only one

If in fact MEK has renounced violence, as it has; if in fact it presents no threat to any U.S. personnel or interest, in fact it presents no such threat; and if in fact it has been of affirmative assistance to the United States, as it has; and is not regarded as a terrorist organization in the United Kingdom or the European Union, then why was it placed on that list and why does it continue to remain on the list of such organizations that is kept by the Secretary of State? Well, I think, it's pretty openly acknowledged that the reason MEK was placed on that list during the Clinton administration was to curry favor with Iran, and to use the designation as a way of entering into dialogue with the Iranian regime. And I am sorry to say that even during the administration that I served in, it is reported that MEK continued to remain on the list for the same misguided reason

The Iranian regime is now in the enviable position of having the United States designate as a terrorist organization a group of Iranians who are a threat to that regime,

and of limiting that group's activities. In other words, the Iranians now have the great Satan working for them

The continued designation of MEK as a terrorist organization gives great comfort and legitimacy to the Iranian regime, by putting on the sidelines an organization that is potentially a grave threat to the regime. What's to be done? Well as I'm sure many of you know there is an ongoing case in which MEK has challenged the designation. In July, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit issued an opinion essentially sending the matter back to the State Department and to the Secretary of State and asking her to re-evaluate whether MEK should be on that list. But the court did something more than that. It expressed a good deal of skepticism at least about the non-classified information that was put before the court and shared with MEK, and which MEK could therefore rebut. Without getting into a whole lot of detail, the Secretary of State may choose to base her determination entirely on classified information if she wants, and then nobody knows why she made the decision, but she didn't do that in this case. She said she based her decision on both the classified information and the non-classified information and the court discussed in some detail some of the non-classified information, and it showed that a lot of it consisted of unsubstantiated, anonymous rumor, whose reliability was unknown and could not be tested. And all we can say is that if the classified part of the record, which MEK has not been allowed to see and to which it cannot therefore respond to directly, consists of the same kind of information as the non-classified part, then the Secretary of State's decision would be based on absolutely nothing substantial. Time will tell. But this is about more than a case in the District of Columbia and more than MEK. This is about the posture of the United States toward the Iranian regime

When succeeding generations consider the question I presented at the beginning of these remarks, of what we did to advance what is good and to resist what is evil, they will find an answer that we and they can live with.

TOM RIDGE, FORMER SECRETARY OF HOMELAND
SECURITY

At one point in time, we talked about and we put the MEK on the terrorist list because we thought it might enhance and improve the dialogue, change the dialogue. There might be some noticeable improvement in our relationship with Iran and I think history concludes so far in the past several years since we put that organization, which by the way disarmed itself, consolidated itself and has been a source of some very important intelligence for this country's use and the rest of the world's knowledge. If the goal was to improve engagement and to solicit a different response from the Iranian government, that hasn't worked out very well either. So, you say to yourself at the end of the day, these efforts during the past several years have been fruitless, and some say through some organizations that are basically feckless, not terribly effective. What happens if they become even further emboldened by having nuclear capability? One, we know what it says about Iran—if you think that part of the world is unstable now, we can only imagine what the consequences will be then

And you know what is probably even more alarming is that we're starting to see more and more analysts accept in their writings the notion of a nuclear Iran and how we would deal with it. Think about that, ten years ago we were worried and trying to fig-

ure out how we could make sure that didn't happen and now we have some pundits and some analysts in the international community saying, it's almost a fait accompli, "now what are we going to do?" Let's just pause for a moment and think what that means to the rest of the world vis-a-vis America. What does it say about our ability to influence geopolitical events? What does it say about how our allies and friends in that region look to us, and our ability to affect change that affects their lives and the security of that particular region. . . . ?

So how do we go forward? What do we do next? I think the Attorney General very clearly identified probably one of the most significant things we can do and that is delist as the UK has done, and the European Union has done, MEK. They did consolidate. They did disarm. They were a source of considerable intelligence for us, and if we are to look for peaceful means of encouraging a regime change, it seems to me that one of the first and most significant steps we could take, I guess it's under review right now by the State Department, but as you well know in January of this year I think the DC Circuit Court of Appeals said that, based on the information you presented in this court right now (and unfortunately you had to go to court, everybody goes to court in the United States, but to get them delisted from the State Department) the court said preliminarily, the information that you've at least shared with us in court today doesn't warrant them being listed as a terrorist organization. I think the consequences of that particular decision, the State Department as I understand it and perhaps others on this panel can give us a more enlightened and more recent point of view that they're actually honestly and actively considering that outcome.

What's the benefit of that outcome? First of all it's the strongest possible signal that our approach toward Iran is changing. It's saying that 30 years of peaceful engagement hasn't been effective, and I think everybody around the world knows that. But I'm going to give you a different perspective if I might because I think it has as much to do as how we're viewed around the rest of the world and why I think we should do it as soon as possible. I've always thought that, if America was considered to be a product that we look to sell around the world then our brand is based on our value system. Think about that for a moment. For 200+ years, more recently we have tried to promote the notion of civil society, and civil institutions, and believing that in the heart of all men and women everywhere around the world there is a desire to be free, a desire to control your own destiny, to raise your own family, to share in hopefully, the opportunities that your society and your government would provide for you. In inheriting all of that, we have many of those discussions as it relates to how we are engaged in our effort against terrorism around the world. We challenge ourselves around Abu Ghraib, we challenge ourselves around Guantanamo, we challenge ourselves with regard to due process. We know what we stand for. It's part of the American brand. We are our strongest allies; we're also our strongest critics. We know what we believe in and when we seem to deviate, if some of us seem to think we deviate from that brand, we take a close look at ourselves in the mirror and ask ourselves "What are we doing?" Well, part of that American brand I think is being consistent with our values overseas as well. And when we see a repressive theocracy, day in and day out, imprisoning, torturing, executing men, women, entire families because they've been brave enough, courageous enough to stand in opposition to the theocracy. In their hearts, not

necessarily looking to the institutions of government like America but looking to the value system of freedom and liberty, speech, assembly, peaceful opposition. So I frankly think one of the most important things this country can do, and hope we will do it as soon as possible is to delist. Delist the People's Mujahedin of Iran. It's not a terrorist organization. And after that, be part of a sustained, public, rhetorical, and as well diplomatic embrace of our brand, with the hope of convincing the rest of the world that the loyal opposition, those pro-democracy warriors, individuals and families in Iran can at least look to the United States not with casual and occasional criticism of the Iranian government and how it treats its citizens, but a sustained clamor for change, aggressive diplomatic efforts to at least pull some of our friends and allies into the chorus of opposition to this regime. Time is running out. There aren't too many options left.

FRANCES FRAGOS TOWNSEND, FORMER ADVISOR
TO PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ON HOMELAND
SECURITY

Our policy goals in this country really must be a reflection of our values. It must be consistent and it must be fundamental to how we build a policy process. It struck me, when you go back and look at the current, when we heard Tom Ridge and others talk about the sanctions regime, we can debate its efficacy we can debate its impact, but the statement of the goal right now as we sit here today in Washington the goal of the sanctions, which have not been yet successful, is to get the regime to the bargaining table. Is that really all? To describe that is as humble and modest in terms of an objective, that's not enough. So, when you look at all the other things we've talked about just so far this morning that the MEK is still listed as an FTO all of that stems from "what are you trying to achieve." If you're not clear, and you're not ambitious, and your goals don't represent your values, you are doomed to failure. . . .

The FTO designations, as you can imagine during my time in the government (I was in the Justice Department for many years and then in the White House), monitoring the FTO process, the Foreign Terrorist Organizations designation process, working with the State Department was among my responsibilities. I must tell you that having traveled throughout the Middle East and around the world, talking to our allies, the FTO designation process (we should just be honest) is disrespected by our allies. It is ineffective. It is corrupted by politics, and I don't mean, "corrupted" in the criminal sense, but it has been pervaded by political debate, which is part and parcel of a foreign policy discussion when you're setting foreign policy goals. The fact that we permit domestic politics in foreign policy concerns to come into what is supposed to be an objective process, that is the designation of a foreign terrorist organization, undermines US credibility. . . .

Not only, having disarmed, and renounced violence and assisted the United States, should the MEK come off the list, the US Congress should abolish the list because I frankly think in many respects because of how it's operated, it does more to undermine our credibility on these subjects. So, I would both take MEK off the list and I would ask Congress to abolish it. . . .

The other thing that I would say and hasn't been spoken about, again I'm sensitive to this because of my responsibilities in the White House is, I frankly think, as part of the delisting process one of the things that would enable or open the potential for is permitting MEK leaders who are outside of Iran to get visas and come to the

United States. That's an entirely, again, separate process. It would be treated separately. Delisting does not necessarily mean that those leaders would be able to apply and get such a visa that ought to be part of this process. Those people ought to be able to come here and speak about the atrocities, they ought to be able to speak about the human rights abuses and what's happening inside Iran to those advocates for democracy and freedom. And they ought to be able to be their own advocates. Right now, we are their advocates, but they are entitled to make their own case both before the American Congress and the American people, to raise money, to raise support, and to raise awareness. So, for me, it's: take them off the list, abolish the list and grant visas to expatriates and exiled MEK leaders so that they can come and make their own case.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 661, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF SANCTUARY, INC.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of Sanctuary, Inc., a community based non-profit organization that aims to improve the quality of life for Guam's families and youth. Through their 24-hour crisis intervention, Sanctuary promotes mediation services during times of family conflicts while also providing temporary safe refuge to youth in need of further supportive counseling. In addition, Sanctuary fosters the development of responsible community members and assists in preserving and promoting family unity through their outreach, education and prevention programs.

Founded in 1971 by Father Robert Phelps and Mr. Luis Martinez, with the goal of creating a safe refuge for Guam's youth, Sanctuary originated in southern Guam, with seven families volunteering their time and homes to provide temporary housing to troubled youth who are not suitable for youth correctional facilities. Sanctuary has since relocated to central Guam and now provides shelter and services at three dedicated buildings: an emergency shelter, a transitional living program, and substance abuse program. They have made tremendous strides over the years and annually provide safe haven for over 300 youth and also provide assistance through outreach and prevention programs to over 3,000 troubled teens. These services and programs, such as alcohol and drug treatment programs, provide safe alternatives to detention or youth correctional facilities and are instrumental in helping troubled youth turn their lives around and contribute to society.

It is on the occasion of Sanctuary's 39th anniversary that I join our community in com-

mending their humanitarian services and outreach efforts in helping Guam's youth. I commend the efforts of Interim Executive Director, Millie Lujan; Staff members and Volunteers who have dedicated and contributed their time over the past 39 years and I look forward to many more years of continued service by Sanctuary Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall votes 657 through 663 on Tuesday, December 21st. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 657 on H. Res 1771, rollcall 658 on H.R. 6540, rollcall 659 on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 5116, rollcall 660 on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 2142, rollcall 661 on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 2751, rollcall 662 on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3082, and rollcall 663 on H.R. 6547.

BARBARA ROOSE-CRAMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Barbara Roose-Cramer for her outstanding service to our community.

Barbara has been married 47 years, is the mother of three and grandmother of seven. She is an accomplished athlete, writer, motivational speaker and volunteer. Barbara has been the recipient of numerous awards including California's Outstanding Athlete and Most Inspirational Athlete, the YWCA's Most Courageous Athlete and a two time Olympic Gold Medalist. Since the onset of polio at age eight, Barbara has been in a wheelchair.

In addition to her accomplishments as an athlete, Barbara has served on numerous committees for organizations dedicated to those with disabilities. She is currently writing for major publications on issues concerning those with disabilities. Being a sports enthusiast she has written a book about the history of the Denver Broncos and donated all the profits to a local wheelchair basketball team.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Barbara Roose-Cramer for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on December 17, 2010, I was unavoidably detained

and missed rollcall votes 651 and 654. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 651 and 654.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 659 on, H.R. 5116 on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 660 on H.R. 2142, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 661 on H.R. 2751, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 662 on H.R. 3082, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to House Amendment to Senate Amendment, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 663 on H.R. 6547, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I thank you for your service to our country, for your sacrifice and unyielding dedication.

Because of your leadership, Democrats have much to be proud of during our work in the 110th and 111th Congress.

As Speaker, you have made the United States a better country. Women have more rights in the workforce, children are safer, our military is stronger and our economy was saved from near complete collapse.

Without you at the helm, healthcare for all would only be a dream. Because of your labor, it will be a reality.

As the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House, you have left an indelible mark on our history. Your positive, supportive and empowering leadership will forever remind us of what it is to be an American.

Your strength of leadership will continue to serve the American people well as we protect the victories we have secured, and renew our efforts to move America forward.

Speaker, I remember the day of your swearing-in. All the children surrounding you as you pounded the gavel leading us on a new direction. You have made them proud. You have made us all proud.

Thank you, Speaker PELOSI. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER CRASE

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Crase, a mathematics teacher at South Oldham Middle School in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

Ms. Crase has been an educator for more than thirteen years and has taught eighth grade mathematics in Crestwood, Kentucky for 6 years.

In June 2010, Ms. Crase was nominated by President Barack Obama as a Presidential Awardee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, she has worked at the State level to develop a standards-based report card for all Kentucky middle schools. Ms. Crase serves as a team leader, mentor, presenter and mathematics lead teacher for her school.

Ms. Crase is a strong mentor and a reliable friend to her colleagues. She encourages collaboration and sets high goals for all students.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, it is my hope that others are encouraged by her hard work and determination.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Jennifer Crase for her time and devotion in helping the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHAIRMAN DAVID OBEY OF WISCONSIN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, with the conclusion of the 111th Congress, a career of extraordinary public service in the House of Representatives comes to an end. My colleague, friend and mentor—Chairman DAVID OBEY—is concluding his career in Congress representing the families of northwestern Wisconsin that began in 1969. For twenty terms, DAVID OBEY has been a liberal champion and a fierce defender of workers and their families. He has been a passionate and effective legislator for right of all Americans to access quality health care and education. And, in the realm of U.S. foreign policy, Chairman OBEY has a lifetime record of always striving to ad-

vance human dignity, peace, and the highest ideals of the American people around the world.

It has been my privilege to serve in this House with Rep. OBEY for the past ten years—one-quarter of his congressional career. For the past four years, I had the honor of serving on the House Appropriations Committee, calling the gentleman from Wisconsin "Mr. Chairman." I have watched DAVID OBEY work—work hard, tirelessly, and with tremendous determination and intellect—to advance an agenda that makes the lives of regular Americans the highest priority of the federal government. Chairman OBEY always fought for the less fortunate, the vulnerable, those struggling for an opportunity to succeed, and to ensure those who have made this country great with their toil and sacrifice in the factory, the farm field, or on the battlefield. He fought so they too could live and retire with security, respect, and dignity.

It is often said that Mr. OBEY was tough and rough on the outside, but I always found him to be a kind, warm soul who knew the importance and magnitude of his responsibilities and carried them out with the humble expertise of a legislative master. "I started as a shy boy from a troubled family of modest means," Rep. OBEY once said. Well, that shy boy has made a lifetime of contributions to our country that will be judged by history as both profound and far reaching. People who will never know DAVID OBEY are living better lives with more opportunities because of him. The State of Wisconsin and the United States are better places because of his years of service in the U.S. House.

As a Wisconsin Progressive in the tradition of Robert LaFollette, Rep. OBEY has never shied away from calling out injustice or just plain dumb policymaking. In his book, "Raising Hell for Justice," he reminds citizens and policymakers that "federal budgets that pay for tax cuts for millionaires with budget cuts in education, Medicaid, child care, and health care are not just unfair; they are immoral."

This quote was again put to the test only last week as Chairman OBEY voted against extending massive tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. I was proud to join Chairman OBEY in opposing this tax cut for the wealthy that only continues the disturbing pattern of income re-distribution away from working families and towards a class of economic elites.

As the longest serving Member of Congress in Wisconsin history, I know DAVID spent far too much time away from his wife, Joan, and their family. I wish DAVID, Joan, and their sons' families many happy days together in the coming years.

In conclusion, let me simply say—Mr. Chairman, you have served our country so very well. It is personally difficult to see you leave, but your lifetime of service will live on in the lives of millions of Americans whose lives you have helped to improve. As a colleague and a friend, you have made me a better legislator and for that I am grateful to you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House

Chamber yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 662 and 663.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 21, 2010, I cast a vote but it apparently was not recorded on rollcall vote 661. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, had my vote been properly recorded I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 661.

HONORING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR WORK ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST CON- GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their work on behalf of the people of the first congressional district of the State of Ohio and for their dedicated service to the 111th United States Congress. I offer my sincerest appreciation to Alyson Budd, Jay Stolkin, Robert George, Danielle Vizgirda, Sean Kelley, Ozie Davis III, Steve Brinker, Victoria Parks, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Shannon Faulk, Alex Kisling, Colby Nelson, Morgana Carter, Sarah McHugh, Aaron Wasserman, Tim Mulvey, Heidi Black, Greg Mecher, and Sarah Curtis.

CONCLUSION OF MY SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of North Dakota for the chance to represent our great state in this great chamber for the past 9 terms.

Words cannot adequately express the feelings of gratitude I have as my time as a member of body draws to a close.

At varying times I've agreed or disagreed with virtually every member—Democratic or Republican—in this House. Steering the course for the United States of America is a very difficult and complex undertaking. As our country moves into its third century in the first decade of the new millennium, it seems like the challenges only get bigger as we go forward.

But I conclude my life here with a strong sense of hope and optimism for the future.

The United States Capitol is the icon of democracy known throughout the world. In this historic place, sometimes in the darkest hour, leaders here assembled have set the course to see us through.

If the American people exhibit the best aspects of their nature—courage, compassion, strength, resolve, community—the leaders in the chamber will deliver accordingly.

I will always treasure the time I had here. I won some, I lost some, but I tried my best to reflect the concerns of those I represented, as well as the genuine goodness of the folks who call North Dakota home.

North Dakotans have selected a new Congressman, Representative-elect Rick Berg, and I wish him great success in delivering for our state.

In conclusion, there is one group in particular I want to thank—all of those who have served on my staff now at the end or any time during these nine terms. Present and recent staff members include Bob Siggins, Melanie Rhinehart Van Tassel, Stacy Austad, Brenden Timpe, Adam Durand, Dustin Olson, Diane Oakley, Chris Cunningham, Matt Pearce, Hillary Price, David Grant, Annie Finkenbinder, Ross Keys, Joan Carlson, Dianne Mondry, Nick Keaveny, Geoff Greenwood, Bill Heigaard, and Erin Hill.

They are extraordinarily talented and dedicated individuals, reflective of the wonderfully gifted staff members I have been privileged to work with for the 18 years of my service in the House.

Now I look forward to more time with my wife, Mary, and my children, Kathryn and Scott, as this term ends and my membership in this body ceases.

I thank my colleagues for their commitment to work so hard to serve their constituents and our country.

I have been richly blessed to have had the chance to work with you in the people's House—the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 22, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 657 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 1771); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 658 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6540); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 659 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5116); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 660 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2142); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 661 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2751); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 662 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3082); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 663 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6547); and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 664 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 847).

S. 3481—A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3481 to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which clarifies that the Federal Government, like private citizens and businesses, must take responsibility for the pollution it produces. This bill is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 5724, cosponsored by my good friends from Virginia and Arizona, Rep. JIM MORAN and Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. The bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support because the Senate understood that this is simply an issue of fairness and equity to users and a matter of managing pollution and protecting the environment. In fact, this bill simply clarifies current law, that the Federal Government has a responsibility to pay its normal and customary fees assessed by local governments for managing polluted stormwater runoff from federal properties, just as private citizens pay. The consequence of failing to pass this bill is that we give the Federal Government a free ride and pass its fees on to our constituents throughout the United States.

Section 313 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act states, "Each department, agency, or instrumentality . . . of the Federal Government . . . shall be subject to, and comply with all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements . . . in the same manner, and to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity including the payment of reasonable service charges." However, the Government Accountability Office issued letters to Federal agencies in the District of Columbia instructing them not to pay the District of Columbia's Water and Sewer Authority's (D.C. Water's) Impervious Area Charge. D.C. Water calculates the charges to manage stormwater runoff based on the amount of impervious land occupied by the landowner. Impervious surfaces, such as roofs, parking lots, sidewalks and other hardened surfaces are the major contributors to stormwater runoff entering the sewer system and local rivers, lakes and streams, causing significant amounts of pollutants to enter these waters. This bill clarifies that in my district and all others congressional districts, Federal agencies must continue to pay their utility fees instead of passing the fees to our constituents.

Nothing in this Act was intended to affect the payment by the United States or any department, independent establishment, or agency thereof of any sanitary sewer services furnished by the sanitary sewage works of the District through any connection thereto for direct use by the government of the United States or any department, independent establishment, or agency thereof. The rules for those payments are set forth in law codified at section 34–2112 of the D.C. Code and nothing in this Act amends or otherwise affects those rules. This bill requires that Congress make available, in appropriations acts, the funds that could be used for to pay stormwater management charges, but not that the appropriations act would need to state specifically or expressly that the funds could be used to pay these charges.

This bill is supported by the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the International City/County Management Associations, as well as the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. All of these national groups understand that stormwater management fees, without any exceptions, are necessary for managing and reducing water pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Moreover, they understand that many agencies in States and localities may stop paying their water and stormwater management fees if we do not act, putting even more financial burden on residents.

Federal law has mandated that these local governments must collect these fees. No exemption has been granted to Federal facilities. Please support S. 3481 to clarify the original intent of the law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "aye" for each of the following votes:

Roll 657, December 21, 2010: On Agreeing to the Resolution: H. Res. 1771, Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules.

Roll 658, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: H.R. 6540, Defense Level Playing Field Act.

Roll 659, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment: H.R. 5116, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

Roll 660, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment: H.R. 2142, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010.

Roll 661, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments: H.R. 2751, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Roll 662, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Concur in the Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment: H.R. 3082, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Roll 663, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: H.R. 6547, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act.

Roll 664, December 21, 2010: On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment: H.R. 847, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 662 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISSI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PIERLUISSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the inclusion of increased funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program in the Continuing Resolution. Pell Grants are instrumental in helping students obtain college degrees and further prepare themselves to join the modern workplace. In Puerto Rico, over 280,000 students benefit from this funding each year.

Last year, I was proud to join my colleagues on the House Education Committee in voting to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,550 for the current academic year and to tie future awards to inflation. However, this increased funding will be put in jeopardy if Congress does not act today. Largely as a result of the economic downturn, Pell Grant applications have increased by 20 percent during the past year. Without an additional investment in the Pell Grant Program, the maximum award could be cut by more than 15 percent, putting college out of reach for many students.

I urge my colleagues to support the Continuing Resolution to ensure that college remains affordable for our Nation's students.

POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3447, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010.

The original GI Bill proved to be a landmark initiative for our troops and an outstanding investment in the future of our Nation. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, signed into law in 2008, built on the success of the original program by providing helpful and hard-earned educational and economic benefits for our newest generation of veterans. Although today's legislation seeks to make it easier for veterans to utilize their educational benefits, some of the changes will have detrimental consequences.

Just as the veterans of WWII were the engine of economic recovery and expansion in the post-war period, the most recent genera-

tion of veterans will continue their service to America by reaching their full educational and economic potential through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

While I support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote for it, there are some provisions in the legislation that I believe deserve additional consideration. Although I support setting a national average tuition rate for benefits, I am concerned that students in states like New York will be negatively impacted by the \$17,500 baseline.

This legislation will reduce benefits for students in New York already enrolled in programs where the cost is above the baseline. Students based decisions about which institution of higher education to attend partly on a benefit level guaranteed in the 2008 law. A "hold harmless" provision would have allowed these students to continue to receive the same level benefits for which they are entitled.

Under current law, state approving agencies, SAAs, are charged with approving programs and schools that are deemed appropriate for vets using the GI Bill. S. 3447 permits the Veterans Administration, VA, to make this determination and I am concerned that this responsibility should remain within SAA's jurisdiction, as they have been the experts in protecting veterans from fraudulent programs. The bill goes further by permitting veterans to use their GI benefits at schools without any approval by SAAs or the VA. In my view this is unwise.

This legislation permits the VA to expand GI benefits to trade schools, unaccredited colleges, and programs that lead to no degree or certificate. While I understand that many veterans choose not to take a more traditional path and attend an institution of higher education, I am deeply concerned that taxpayer dollars will go to programs that will not lead to gainful employment.

I am also concerned that this bill includes a so-called "last-payer" provision. The last payer provision withholds the student's GI Bill benefit until a calculation is made of any state and private tuition aid, for which a veteran may be eligible. In some cases, this would cause a delay in GI benefits and lead to needless confusion.

As a former college administrator, I am very pleased to see so many veterans returning home and choosing to seek further education. However, I am deeply concerned with a growing number of reports that some institutions may be abusing GI tuition payments by aggressively targeting veterans for academic programs that may not provide an actual benefit to a student, such as preparation for future employment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that in the 112th Congress we can achieve bipartisan solutions to these issues to protect both taxpayers and distinguished veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a small token of our appreciation for their valor and service to our Nation. I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter signed by various higher education groups that outlines the community's concerns with this legislation.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2010.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Council on Education and the organizations listed below, we write to express our hope that before adjournment, the 111th Congress will approve a final version of the

Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvement Act of 2010 that addresses the concerns outlined below.

Both the House version (H.R. 6430) and the Senate version (S. 3447) make welcome improvements to current law, such as expanding the benefits to troops serving in the Active Guard Reserve and to National Guard members who have honorably served their country on active duty, including at the sites of natural disasters. The bills also replace the complex state-by-state tuition and fee cap look-up chart with language that specifies that GI Bill benefits cover tuition and fees for veterans attending public institutions while establishing a single national tuition baseline for those who enroll in private institutions.

However, we believe that the House version is preferable in two very critical respects. First, S. 3447 contains a provision that would add a new source of confusion for veterans and prevent them from having a clear idea of the level of support to which they are entitled. This so-called "last-payer" provision, which withholds the GI Bill benefit until a calculation is made of any state and private tuition aid for which a veteran may be eligible, would not only confound veterans and delay the delivery of aid, but in some cases would conflict with state statutes. In contrast, H.R. 6430 does not include such a provision and will help end the frustration and confusion that far too many veterans have experienced in attempting to access their benefits.

Second, H.R. 6430 includes an important "hold harmless" provision, designed to protect veterans who might otherwise be negatively impacted by the establishment of a national baseline. In several states, veterans attending private institutions currently receive a base benefit that is greater than the new national baseline amount provided in either version of the legislation. By failing to include this "hold harmless" language, the Senate bill would reduce benefits for a number of veterans upon enrollment for a subsequent term. In contrast, the House bill would help ensure that veterans continue to receive their current benefits without interruption.

As this legislation nears passage, we strongly urge you to modify S. 3447 so that it reflects the approach taken by the House bill on these two important issues. Our campuses have worked very hard to smooth out the difficulties that veterans have faced under current law, and these improvements will enable them to serve veterans even more effectively.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of the nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

MOLLY CORBETT BROAD,
President.

DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE AND VICTIMS SUPPORT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2925, the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act.

It is fitting that as one of the last acts of this Congress which has done so much to aid the

most vulnerable in our society, we are considering legislation that would protect children from sex traffickers.

Tragically, this heinous crime is becoming more common with as many as 100,000 young people trafficked every year within our borders.

To address this heartbreaking trend, the legislation before us authorizes a comprehensive grant program to identify and assist victims and strengthens the National Crime Information Center, NCIC, database that enables law enforcement officials to track missing and exploited children.

These commonsense steps will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of kids who have experienced unimaginable ordeals.

S. 2925 mirrors House legislation authored by my colleagues Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Congressman CHRIS SMITH. I applaud their hard work on behalf of these forgotten young people and commend them for their leadership in devising smart solutions to fight the scourge of child prostitution in America.

The Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act will significantly augment our efforts to help children traumatized by the worst kind of criminal act and I urge its swift passage.

In an era characterized by bitter partisanship, it is exceedingly gratifying for me that members of this body can still reach across the aisle and stand together in defense of children caught in perilous circumstances.

It is my sincere hope that next year we can come together in the same spirit of bipartisanship to help young people apprehended along our southern border.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 663, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, due to an illness, I was unable to be in Washington, DC, for votes on December 21, 2010 and December 22, 2010.

Had I been present for the votes on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 662: I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Concur in the Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment on H.R. 3082, the Continuing Appropriations Act for 2011.

Had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, December 22, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 663: I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALPHONSE R. TELESE JR.
AND SPECIALIST JIM BATCHELOR

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we approach the close of the 111th Congress, it is important to remember our men and women in uniform around the world. These brave men and women sacrifice every day to ensure that United States citizens enjoy the freedom that we all cherish. We pay tribute as well to our wounded warriors and wish them a safe and happy holiday season.

One such hero is retired specialist Jim Batchelor who has served his country proudly for over three and a half years. During his tenure in the Army he has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, expert badges in driving and marksmanship, good conduct medals, and Army Commendation medals. Not allowing his military injury to slow him down, he has finished his degree in criminal justice and is now pursuing a master in psychology to help his fellow soldiers returning from the war. He and his wife, Antoinette, live in Cooper Texas, and are expecting the birth of their first child.

Another hero who deserves tribute is retired Lieutenant Colonel Alphonse R. Telese Jr. Mr. Telese served in the U.S. Army for over 32 years before retiring in August of 2008. It was during his tour of duty in Iraq that he was permanently injured during a mortar attack. He has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his distinguished career. These include the Legion of Merit award, National Defense Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, to name a few. Today, he and his wife Tierney reside in Frisco, Texas. Since his retirement, LTC Telese continues to support the military, volunteering his time and talents to the Dallas Summer Boat Show Tournament of Heroes Invitation Bass Fishing Tournament which provides a much deserved break for our military heroes.

As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory and in honor of those who answer the call to duty and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude that can never be paid.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 657, (H. Res. 1771), my flight was delayed due to weather and had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 657, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 660 and 661.

REFLECTIONS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, when I was elected to Congress 28 years ago, it was the fulfillment of a life-long ambition. But I had never served in elective office before, and frankly, I wondered how well it would wear—all the back-slapping and glad-handing and garrulous talk.

My first revelation was to find that this House is not made up of back-slappers and glad-handers. It is made up of members who work hard to get here, many out of patriotic purpose, hoping that they in their time can contribute something worthy of this great country. Most of the members are extroverted and energetic, and have to be, to get elected every two years.

At Davidson College, my alma mater; at Oxford on scholarship; at Yale Law; in the Pentagon as a young analyst, and as a practicing lawyer, I made many good friends, but few as good as the friends I have made here. Of all the things I will miss, I will miss most the fellowship and camaraderie.

I first experienced Congress as a young Army officer in the Pentagon, working for the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) on defense contractors in financial distress, mainly Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. As staff at the Department of Defense, we did a lot of work that I thought staff at Congress should be doing, particularly if Congress hoped to be a co-equal branch. The greatest difference between Congress then, from '69 through '71, and Congress 12 years later, when I came here in 1983 as an elected member, was staff. Committee staff and members' staff both had grown greatly, in quality and quantity. As a result, today's Congress is better staffed and equipped, more effective and independent, and a lot closer to being co-equal.

I have had the good fortune of working with talented staff in my office and on the committees where I have served; and as I leave, I thank them all, because anything I have done of significance, I did with their good help.

My first quest in Congress was to get a good committee assignment. After two days of

bidding, I had struck at every option and never scored a hit. I was at a loss for where to go when Tony Coelho sought me out and offered me a seat on the House Armed Services Committee.

The HASC dove-tailed nicely with my district because the Fifth District includes Shaw Air Force Base. But as important as Shaw is, I learned that other members had defense interests far larger than mine. Since I was not carrying water for a large defense constituency, I had the independence to take on troubled systems, like the DIVAD, the Division Air Defense gun, which my amendment effectively killed; or the MX, which I voted to stop at 50 missiles, or binary chemical weapons, which my amendments helped side-track and eventually derail.

In selecting members for every committee, the leadership tries to match the member's interests at home with his committee in the House. That's natural and to be expected, but we should also select members for ballast—members free to act, ask hard questions, and offer amendments.

At the time I took my seat on Armed Services, the nation was engaged in the biggest defense build-up in our peace-time history, and the committee chairman presiding over this build-up was well past his prime. Elderly and weak, he could barely be heard over the din of noise in the committee room. When Les Aspin let it be known that he was going to run for the chair, and leap-frog six senior members, I was among the first to offer support. We prevailed, and over the next five years, Aspin allowed me to set up and chair two panels, the first on Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, and the second, on the nuclear weapons complex. Though both were important, neither was receiving the attention it deserved by the committee or any of its subcommittees, due to other issues or a lack of interest in these.

Because of our oversight, we were able to pare back the SDI budget; shift funds from strategic missile defense to theater missile defense, and wipe out a few far-fetched systems altogether. For example, my amendment deleted funding for the space-based interceptor. In the press release accompanying passage of the defense bill, the headline read: "House Takes the Star out of Star Wars." President Reagan did not find it amusing; he vetoed the defense bill, but after many years and billions of dollars, our cuts have stood the test of time.

After two years, we had to return SDI to the Research and Development Subcommittee, so we set up a new panel dealing with nuclear facilities. The Cold War had enabled our nuclear complex to put off environmental and safety issues. To deal with these problems, we shifted nearly a billion dollars from Defense to Energy, and saved over a billion dollars by stopping the Special Isotope Separator, a laser-driven process to produce plutonium, even though the Secretary of Energy acknowledged we were "awash in plutonium."

We scored a number of such successes, but the most satisfying took place largely off stage where we made the case for a moratorium on nuclear testing. We first helped Representative Kopetski draft a bill calling for an immediate cessation of testing, and we then drafted an alternative that we thought the Senate would pass allowing for a few final tests before declaring a moratorium. We proposed the alternative to Senators Exon and Hatfield,

who took up its support and moved it to passage through the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This saved the moratorium from being vetoed because the super-collider was also in this bill, and President Bush wanted it to be funded.

Another satisfying measure: my substitute to the war powers resolution authorizing President Bush to use force against Iraq. This substitute authorized the force needed to search for weapons of mass destruction, but before going further, it called on the president to seek the sanction of the U.N. Security Council, as his father had done, and to come back to Congress with the case for a broader use of force, which would be received with a fast-track guaranty, an up-or-down vote in the House and Senate. My substitute did not prevail, but it drew 157 votes, and gave many members a position they could uphold.

I made my mark in the House on defense, but during most of my 28 years, my greatest concern was the budget and chronic deficits. In 1997, I was elected by the Democratic Caucus as ranking member of the Budget Committee. I ran against opposition and told the caucus that if I was elected, we would "finish the job" of balancing the budget that began with President Clinton's first budget. About the same time, Erskine Bowles returned to Washington to be the President's Chief of Staff, and when he paid me a courtesy call, he told me that he had the same understanding with the President. With the President's encouragement, the four budget principals in the House and Senate began meeting, and by May 1997 we had hammered out a balanced budget agreement which worked. By 1998, the budget was in balance for the first time in 30 years.

President Bush took office with an advantage few presidents have enjoyed, a budget in balance, in the black by \$236 billion the year before. I was invited to Austin, Texas with 12 other members to discuss defense issues with the incoming president. I used my time to encourage President Bush to apply the surplus in Social Security to buy outstanding Treasury debt, and reduce Treasury debt held by the public. This would increase net national saving, lower public debt, and be a long step toward making Social Security solvent. The president-elect professed interest but not for long, and by 2004, the deficit was over \$400 billion.

President George W. Bush was greeted as he took office by a surplus of \$200 billion. When he left office in 2009, the surplus was gone, and the deficit projected for that fiscal year was \$1.2 trillion.

As I leave Congress, the deficit is hovering around a trillion dollars and while improving, current deficits exceed the deficits of the mid-1990s by every measure. But the process of resolving both is basically the same: everything must be on the table and everyone must be at the table.

As the menu for such a meeting, the President's Fiscal Commission has submitted a plate full of recommendations. I served on the commission and voted for the report, even though I do not support all of its proposals. I cast an "aye" because our country is in desperate need of a plan for balancing the budget and making Social Security and Medicare solvent. These will not be popular—far from it—but as they shore up our economy, they will prove their worth and raise the standing of Congress in the eyes of our countrymen. I am

sorry that I will not be here to lend my support, but as a parting gesture, I urge the House to go for it.

I will remember with pride my 28 years in the House of Representatives and our positive accomplishments over that time. I am told that only 500 members have served in the House for as long as 28 years. I thank my constituents for that opportunity, and hope that history will show that I used it to make this a better country in ways that stood the test of time.

FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2751, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010, a bill that would overhaul our Nation's food safety system by fundamentally changing the way we protect the safety of our food supply. The focus of this legislative measure is to prevent contamination of food before it occurs, which is a departure from the current system today that responds after a food-borne illness outbreak. Specifically, it requires food producers to come up with strategies to prevent contamination and then continually test to make sure these strategies are working. In addition, H.R. 2751 would allow the FDA to increase the number of inspections to conduct, and requires foreign importers to ensure their food products meet U.S. safety standards.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the leadership of the House and the Senate for this bipartisan legislation to provide a framework for developing preventive control standards from farm to table to protect the public from food contamination.

HONORING JOHN SHADEGG

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of the Arizona delegation, JOHN SHADEGG.

JOHN SHADEGG is ending his service to this institution after 16 years. He came here in 1994 and has served the State of Arizona extremely well during that time. During his time here, JOHN promoted the principles of limited government, economic freedom, and individual responsibility, and has stayed true to his ideals while proudly serving the people of Arizona's Third District.

Arizona has a habit of producing great legislators, including Barry Goldwater, Mo Udall, Carl Hayden, and others; JOHN SHADEGG's name will certainly be added to that illustrious list.

I want to pay tribute to JOHN today and tell him how much the Arizona delegation, and all of us will miss his steady, constant, principled leadership here in the House of Representatives. Well done, JOHN SHADEGG.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PFC JAYSINE P.S. PETREE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of United States Army Private First Class Jaysine P.S. Petree. PFC Petree was assigned to the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Richardson, Alaska. On September 24, 2010, PFC Petree passed away in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. She was 19 years old.

Known by her friends as "Jen", PFC Petree was born in the Philippines and moved to Guam in 2002. PFC Petree attended Simon Sanchez High School in Yigo, Guam, where she excelled in both academics and interscholastic sports. Shortly after her graduation in 2009, PFC Petree enlisted in the U.S. Army, and on September 24, 2010, she made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our Nation's freedom in support of combat operations in Afghanistan. I join our community in mourning the loss of PFC Petree and I offer my most sincere condolences to her parents, Herbert and Jayne Suggang Petree, and to her many family and friends. We are eternally grateful for her service and will never forget the sacrifices of PFC Petree.

May God bless the family and friends of PFC Jaysine P.S. Petree, God bless Guam, and God bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 664 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

A ONE-OF-A-KIND-MINNESOTAN: WIN WALLIN

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Winston "Win" Wallin: businessman, philanthropist, pioneer and one-of-a-kind Minnesotan.

Born in Minneapolis in 1926, Win, like so many in his generation, served in the military during World War II. After two years as a Navy pilot, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota.

Following graduation, Win began a long and industrious career with Pillsbury, rising through the ranks to Chief Operations Officer.

In the mid-80's, Win left Pillsbury to head a little-known, struggling medical device company based in Minnesota, named Medtronic.

Win's leadership and determination, changed the face of Medtronic. Today it is the world's largest medical device company.

Although Win brought great success to the companies he led, his life cannot simply be measured in their bottom lines, but rather in the countless lives he touched through his philanthropic endeavors.

Win was a true believer in empowerment through higher education. Since 1986, Win and his wife Maxine have helped over 3,000 high school students make the dream of a college education a reality through their Wallin Scholarship.

While Minnesota will never be able to replace Win, his legacy lives on through the lives he has touched and the state he has made better through his presence.

CONGRATULATING THE FERGUSON FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to our former Colleague from New Jersey, Mike Ferguson, and his wife Maureen Ferguson on the birth of their new daughter Lucy Therese Ferguson. Lucy was born on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC.

Lucy Therese Ferguson is eight pounds and two ounces of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Patrick and Esther Malloy of West Swanzey, New Hampshire, and Tom Ferguson of Wellington, Florida. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Ferguson family and wish them all the best.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT WILLIE JAMES QUINCE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual, the late Sergeant Willie James Quince of Paterson, New Jersey, whose life was celebrated during a memorial service on Monday, November 29, 2010, at the First A.M.E. Zion Church.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he served countless others throughout his lifetime.

Sergeant Willie James Quince was born in Valdosta, Georgia in 1921 to Mr. Remer Quince and Helen Braswell. His family moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, where he finished elementary school and graduated from Industrial High School. He went on to courses at Purple Kerpels School of Mechanical Dentistry in New York City, NY. He then studied 4 years at the Jones Barber School in Atlantic City, NJ, and the Interracial Barber College in Atlantic City, NJ, graduating in 3 years. After graduation, he moved to Paterson, N.J. in January 1958 and opened Quince's Barber Shop.

He was married to Mary M. Quince for 61 years, and together they raised five children,

Wiley "Sonny" Quince, William A. Quince (Linda), Madgeline Z. Quince, Sylvia A. Lucas, and Kelvin C. Quince (Cora); and also now have 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Mr. Quince was a faithful husband, dedicated father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and a committed community servant. He earned many accolades and had a long record of accomplishment as a forerunner for civil rights and a leader throughout Paterson. He was a long-time member of First A.M.E. Zion Church, where he was elected Man Of The Year multiple times, served on the Board of Trustees for 31 years and served as Chairman for 15 years. He also served on the Stewart Board, Usher Board, The Dreamers, The Kitchen Cabinet, and The Zion Seniors.

He served our nation as a Drill Sergeant during World War II Army Air Force and received the Medal of Good Conduct, WWII Victory Medal and ATO Medal. He was an Honored Life Member of the NAACP Paterson Branch, a member of the Habitat for Humanity Paterson Chapter Tenants Selection Committee for Home Ownership. He was the first African-American elected chairman of the Paterson Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, and he served as Project Housing Manager of Christopher Columbus Housing Development and as Manager of the Riverside Terrace Housing Development. He also served as Paterson's Fourth Ward Leader of the Passaic County Democratic Party for many years. He was known for his superb social mannerisms and good conversation.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the lifetime achievement of a giving person such as Sergeant Willie James Quince.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Willie's family and friends, and me in recognizing the late Sergeant Willie James Quince's outstanding life of service to his community.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CREATING JOBS

AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT, enacted to jumpstart our economy, create and save 3.5 million jobs, give a tax cut to small business and 95% of American workers, begin to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure, and make a historic commitment to education, clean energy, and science and technology, with unprecedented accountability. (Signed into Law)

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT, landmark legislation providing \$12 billion in tax relief for small businesses by enacting 8 more small business tax cuts on top of the 8 already enacted by this Congress; creating up to 500,000 jobs, by leveraging up to \$300 billion in private sector lending for small businesses through a \$30 billion lending fund for community banks; fully paid for—doesn't add a dime to the deficit. (Signed into Law)

TEACHER JOBS/STATE AID/CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES, creating and saving near-

ly 320,000 jobs; providing \$10 billion to save 161,000 teacher jobs and \$16 billion in Medicaid aid, with the effect of creating/saving 158,000 jobs, including police officers, firefighters, nurses & private sector workers; fully paid for by closing loopholes that encourage companies to ship American jobs overseas; cutting deficit by \$1.4 billion. (Signed into Law)

STUDENT AID & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT, making the largest investment in college aid in history—increasing Pell Grants, making college loans more affordable, and strengthening community colleges—while reducing the federal deficit by ending wasteful student loan subsidies to banks. (Signed into Law)

HIRE ACT, creating up to 300,000 jobs, by providing a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers and a tax credit for businesses that retain these workers; also unleashes tens of billions of dollars to rebuild infrastructure; fully paid for by cracking down on offshore accounts for wealthy. (Signed into Law)

CASH FOR CLUNKERS, jump-starting the U.S. auto industry, providing consumers with up to \$4,500 to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency—spurring the sale of 700,000 vehicles. (Signed into Law)

WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT, boosting the economy and creating jobs with more unemployment benefits for Americans hit by the recession, an expanded 1st-time homebuyer tax credit, and enhanced small business tax relief—expanded to all struggling U.S. businesses. (Signed into Law)

U.S. MANUFACTURING ENHANCEMENT ACT, to help U.S. manufacturers compete at home and abroad by temporarily suspending or reducing duties on intermediate products or materials these companies use that are not made domestically. (Signed into Law)

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION, extending unemployment benefits to millions of American families through November 30, 2010; every dollar of unemployment benefits creates at least \$1.61 in economic activity. (Signed into Law)

CURRENCY REFORM/FAIR TRADE, to promote U.S. manufacturing jobs, by giving our government effective tools to address the unfair trade practice of currency manipulation by foreign countries, including China; their undervalued currency makes Chinese exports cheaper and America's exports to China more expensive, putting U.S. manufacturers at an unfair disadvantage; bill is WTO-compliant. (Passed by House)

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT, to promote American jobs by restoring credit to small businesses, extending tax incentives for American R&D and tax relief for middle class American families, rebuilding American infrastructure, and expanding jobs for young people; and to close tax loopholes to make Wall Street billionaires pay their fair share of taxes. (Passed by House)

HOME STAR JOBS, to create 168,000 American jobs making energy efficiency products, by providing incentives for consumers to make their homes energy-efficient—cutting energy bills for 3 million families and reducing our dangerous dependence on foreign oil and dirty fuels. (Passed by House)

RURAL STAR/HOME STAR LOANS, to create tens of thousands more U.S. jobs, by creating Rural Star loans for people in rural America to make their homes and farms more energy-efficient; and a Home Star Loan Program for no-interest loans for energy efficiency home upgrades in other areas; boosts demand for energy efficient products/materials and construction and installation services that are made in America. (Passed by House)

PROTECTING AMERICAN PATENTS, providing funding, fully offset, to prevent additional backlogs in patent applications, as patents are critical to American innovation and economic growth. (Signed into Law)

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION, to invest in modernizing manufacturing; basic R&D; high risk/high reward clean energy research; and teaching science, technology, engineering and math. (Passed by House)

JOBS FOR MAIN STREET ACT, to boost small business and to rebuild highways and transit; paid for by redirecting TARP funds from Wall Street to Main Street. (Passed by House)

SMALL BUSINESS & INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT, to extend Build America Bonds to help finance the rebuilding of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges; and target tax incentives to spur investment in small businesses and help entrepreneurs looking to start a new business. (Passed by House)

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT, tripling volunteerism opportunities to 250,000 for national service for students to retirees; increased college financial awards. (Signed into Law)

PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF at the 2009 level to ensure that 99.8 percent of estates never pay a dime of taxes and offer certainty and stability for farmers and small businesses. (Passed by House)

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

WALL STREET REFORM, historic reforms to end taxpayer-funded bailouts and the idea of "too big to fail," and protect and empower consumers to make the best decisions on mortgages, credit cards, and their own financial future. Lack of accountability for Wall Street and big banks cost 8 million jobs. (Signed into Law)

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS, providing tough new protections already saving consumers money—like banning unfair rate hikes, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthening enforcement. (Signed into Law)

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT & RECOVERY ACT, providing tools to prosecute mortgage scams and corporate fraud that contributed to financial crisis; creating an outside commission to examine its causes. (Signed into Law)

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT, restoring the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America. (Signed into Law)

AIRLINE PASSENGER SAFETY, to improve airline passenger safety, by several steps including strengthening commercial pilot training requirements, requiring a minimum of 1,500 flight hours required for an airline pilot certificate. (Signed into Law)

HELPING HOMEOWNERS

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT, to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans. (Signed into Law)

FHA REFORM, to shore up federal mortgage insurance in order to expand homeownership opportunities by making essential reforms to strengthen the financial footing of the Federal Housing Administration, saving taxpayers \$2.5 billion over 5 years. (Passed by House)

FLOOD INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION & REFORM, reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program, upon which millions of American families and businesses rely, for five years and making key reforms to put the program on a stronger financial footing. (Passed by House)

AFFORDABLE QUALITY

HEALTH CARE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM, landmark legislation putting

American families and small business owners—not the insurance companies—in control of their own health care; lowering costs for middle class and small business; holding insurance companies accountable to prevent denials of care and coverage, including for pre-existing conditions; strengthening Medicare and lowering prescription drug costs; creating up to 4 million jobs; and reducing deficit by largest amount in almost two decades. (Signed into law)

HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN, to finally provide cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserve coverage for 7 million children already enrolled. (Signed into Law)

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO, granting the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, the #1 cause of preventable U.S. deaths, and to stop tobacco companies from targeting our children. (Signed into Law)

ENSURING SENIORS' ACCESS TO THEIR DOCTORS, by blocking scheduled 21% cut in Medicare physician payments through November 30, 2010 and also updating payments by 2.2%. (Signed into Law)

FOOD SAFETY, to fundamentally change the way we protect our food supply; close gaps exposed by recent food-borne illness outbreaks; give the FDA new authorities. (Passed by House)

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT, guaranteeing access to lifesaving medical services, primary care, and medications for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV. (Signed into Law)

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS/HOLDING BP ACCOUNTABLE

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT, historic legislation to create 1.7 million jobs (with the Recovery Act); help free us from funding terrorism with our dependence on foreign oil; reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change; keep costs low for Americans; will not increase the deficit. (Passed by House)

RESPONSE TO BP OIL SPILL, a bill providing a comprehensive response to BP oil spill—eliminating the \$75 million cap on the liability of oil companies, restoring the Gulf Coast and protecting local residents, imposing new safety requirements and strengthening oversight of offshore drilling, and protecting whistleblowers in offshore drilling industry who report safety violations. (Passed by House)

Just hours after a Committee hearing during which I asked BP America's President whether chemical dispersants they were using to break up the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico are safe, the EPA ordered BP to choose a less toxic chemical. The Washington Post reported the EPA ordered the change following a hearing by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee at which I questioned BP's use of hundreds of thousands of gallons of chemical dispersants.

SPILL ACT, to reform maritime liability laws to ensure that the families of those killed or injured in the BP Oil Spill and other such tragedies are justly compensated for their losses. (Passed by House)

BP OIL SPILL COMMISSION SUBPOENA POWER, to give subpoena power to National Commission on BP Oil Spill to ensure that it cannot be stonewalled by BP or others in its search for spill's causes. (Passed by House)

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT, the most significant conservation bill in 15 years, strengthening tourism and rural economies with more than 2 million new acres of wilderness and parks. (Signed into Law)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT REFORM

BUDGET BLUEPRINT, creating jobs with investments in health care, clean energy and

education; cutting taxes for most Americans by \$1.5 trillion; cutting Bush deficit by more than half by 2013. (Action Completed)

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION, setting a limit on discretionary spending for FY 2011 that requires spending cuts of \$7 billion below the President's budget and \$3 billion below Senate. (Action Completed)

STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO, to restore 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses, by forcing tough choices; Congress must offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements. (Signed into Law)

IMPROPER PAYMENTS ELIMINATION, to help identify and eliminate improper federal payments, as well as recover lost funds that federal agencies have spent improperly. (Signed into Law)

WEAPON SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REFORM, cracking down on Pentagon waste and cost overruns in the acquisition of weapon systems, increasing oversight and competition. (Signed into Law)

REFORMING OTHER DOD ACQUISITION, cleaning up DOD acquisition spending for the 80 percent that is for services and other non-weapons items, saving taxpayers an estimated \$27 billion a year. (Passed by House)

DISCLOSE ACT, to fight a corporate takeover of our elections, requires them to disclose they are behind political ads; bans foreign-controlled corporations from putting money in U.S. elections. (Passed by House)

NATIONAL SECURITY/TROOPS AND VETERANS

FY 2010 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, authorizing 3.4% troop pay raise, strengthening military readiness and military families support, focusing our strategy in Afghanistan and redeployment from Iraq. (Signed into Law)

I travelled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Kuwait, and UAE to visit with troops, and receive updates from U.S. military leaders and NGOs.

FY 2011 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION, increasing hostile fire and imminent danger pay; extending TRICARE dependent coverage up to age 26; and strengthening counterterrorism. (Passed by House)

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, to provide for the repeal of this outdated policy, contingent on the certification that military review completed and that repeal would not impact readiness. (Signed into Law)

IRAN SANCTIONS, significantly strengthening sanctions against Iran, including imposing sanctions on foreign entities that sell refined petroleum to Iran or assist Iran in its domestic refining capacity. (Signed into Law)

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT, a top priority of veterans' groups, authorizing Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance to ensure reliable and timely funding and prevent politics from ever delaying VA health care funding. (Signed into Law)

I authored and introduced the Veterans Administration Claims Modernization Act. This law streamlined the VA benefits application process. It was based on problems I heard directly from the experiences of local veterans as well as national VSOs. The law was called "the most sweeping reform of the VA in a generation" by the Times Herald Record.

I successfully advocated for a VA rule change to create an automatic service connection for veterans diagnosed with PTSD after serving in combat. This change dramatically streamlines the process for veterans to receive appropriate care and compensation.

Implemented the post-9/11 GI Bill to provide for a college education for returning veterans.

FY 2010 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION-VA APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening quality health care for 5 million veterans by investing 11% more for medical care, benefits claims processors, and facility improvements. (Signed into Law)

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES, landmark legislation providing help to caregivers of disabled, ill or injured veterans, and improving VA health services for women veterans. (Signed into Law)

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS, providing long overdue disability benefits to more than 150,000 Vietnam veterans and survivors for exposure to Agent Orange. (Signed into Law)

SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

FY 2010 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS, strengthening security at our ports and borders and on commercial airlines, giving first responders tools to respond to terrorism. (Signed into Law)

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT, giving law enforcement resources to prevent and prosecute hate crimes against Americans based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. (Signed into Law)

BORDER SECURITY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS, providing \$600 million to enhance security at the Southwest Border, including funding 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents, 500 additional CBP officers, and additional FBI, DEA, and ATF agents for the border region; paid for by visa fees. (Signed into Law)

I visited the border patrol in Arizona to view the situation first hand and obtain a better understanding of the situation they face.

COPS ON THE BEAT, putting an additional 50,000 cops on the street over the next 5 years. (Passed by House)

CHEMICAL & WATER SECURITY ACT, to increase security and safety of the nation's chemical plants and water facilities vulnerable to terrorist attacks and the millions of Americans that live nearby. (Passed by House)

TRIBUTE TO A REPEAL GREEN TUCKER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sorrow that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Avis Green Tucker, a distinguished Missouri citizen from Warrensburg, in the 4th Congressional District. Avis Green Tucker was not just my own long-time friend. She was one of Missouri's most highly respected newspaper publishers. She was a willing volunteer frequently called to important service by Missouri governors from both political parties. And she was a particularly inspiring role model among women leaders in our state.

Avis and her husband, William Tucker, bought the Daily Star-Journal in 1947 and the paper stayed in the Tucker family for some 60 years, until its sale in 2007 to another distinguished Missouri newspaper family, the Bradleys of St. Joseph. Bill Tucker was serving as publisher in Warrensburg when he died of a heart attack in 1966. Avis took over as one of the few female daily newspaper publishers in the Midwest. She once said: "I decided I was going to run this paper. I was going to try. I told everyone that I had more nerve than ability, which was the truth." But that was a typically reticent and humble statement from a

woman whose abilities were quite remarkable. Those abilities were widely recognized. In 1982, Avis became the first female president of the Missouri Press Association. That was just one of many “firsts” achieved by Avis Tucker, including serving as the first female president of the Missouri Associated Dailies organization, and becoming the first woman inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame. She received the National Newspaper Association’s McKinney Award, given to a woman who “exhibited distinguished service to the community press.” Just this past May, Avis became chair emeritus of the Missouri Press Association’s Foundation Board, which she helped found and fund.

She served not only as one of the state’s rare female publishers, but in other leadership roles, particularly at our mutual alma mater, the University of Missouri. Mizzou’s world-famous School of Journalism honored her with its Honor Medal in 1976. And in 1972, Avis became the first woman president of the University of Missouri’s governing body, the Board of Curators. Her service as a curator has particular significance for me, since she was appointed to succeed her late husband as a curator upon his death. And Bill Tucker had been appointed to succeed my father, Isaac Newton Skelton III, upon his passing. In Missouri, one of the highest honors one can achieve is being named to help guide our land-grant state university, and this is an honor that has been treasured by both the Skelton and Tucker families.

Avis Green Tucker will be remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing her, including me. When she passed away at age 95 on Friday, December 17th, 2010, she had lived a life that was exemplary. Her leadership was superb, her newspaper’s readers and her community were well-served, and her place in Missouri journalism and public service is secure. Avis is survived by two nephews, Bob and Richard Green. I know members of the Congress will join me in paying tribute to the life, achievements and service of Avis Green Tucker, and in extending our condolences to her family and friends.

EMPTY CHAIR IN OSLO FOR LIU XIAOBO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, in the theatrical adaptation of Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables*, Marius sings a haunting song—Empty Chairs and Empty Tables—an expression of agony at the loss of his idealistic comrades, gunned down on a barricade.

“There’s a grief that can’t be spoken,” he sings, “there’s a pain that goes on and on. Empty chairs and empty tables, now my friends are dead and gone . . .”

“Here it was they lit the flame . . . Here they sang about tomorrow and tomorrow never came . . . from the table in the corner they could see a world reborn . . . And they rose with voices ringing. I can hear them now . . . Empty chairs and empty tables, where my friends will meet no more . . .”

When prisoner of conscience Liu Xiaobo, Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2010, learned

that he was selected, he wept and dedicated his prize to the martyrs of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre.

Throughout China today, families and friends know heartbreaking loss and the agony of empty chairs and empty tables—where young, brave, idealistic democracy activists were gunned down, bayoneted, or beaten to death by Chinese government troops and secret police. Both before and since Tiananmen, Chinese men and women have sacrificed their freedom—even their lives—in the struggle for faith and liberty. Yet the struggle for freedom, rule of law, and respect for human rights continues despite the enormous cost to individual Chinese men and women.

At Oslo a couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of witnessing the conferring of the Nobel Peace Prize on Liu Xiaobo’s empty chair—empty because this courageous non-violent man of principle languishes in a lonely prison cell, serving an eleven-year sentence for promoting democracy in China, most recently through Charter 08, a human rights manifesto. In a stunning revelation of Beijing’s weakness, fear, and moral deficiency, even Liu’s wife and friends were barred from attending the Nobel ceremony.

Amazingly, at his government show trial in 2009, Liu expressed absolutely no malice toward the dictatorship that so cruelly mistreats him—and millions of others like him.

He said, “I have no enemies and no hatred. None of the police who monitored, arrested, and interrogated me, none of the prosecutors who indicted me, and none of the judges who judged me are my enemies . . . Hatred can rot away at a person’s intelligence and conscience. Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society’s tolerance and humanity and hinder a nation’s progress toward freedom and democracy. That is why I hope to be able to transcend my personal experiences as I look upon our nation’s development and social change, to counter the regime’s hostility with utmost goodwill, and to dispel hatred with love.”

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony has come and gone. And, I would note parenthetically, it was an honor to join you in Oslo, Madam Speaker, as well as Representative David Wu and numerous Tiananmen Square alumnae—Chinese men and women who peacefully demonstrated for freedom in 1989—including Yang Jianli, Chai Ling, Bob Fu, Fang Zheng, and Kaixi Wuer. It is now more important than ever that all of us who treasure freedom, democracy and human rights empathize more, pray more and do more to expose and combat the cruelty and the crimes committed on a daily basis by Beijing.

The brutality and violence that were witnessed by all the world in 1989 at Tiananmen continues unabated today, especially in the gulags—laogai—and detention centers throughout China, where people are systematically tortured, sometimes to death, particularly Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and democracy activists.

The brutality and violence of unrestrained dictatorship has—and continues to be—unleashed against hundreds of millions of Chinese women and children—victims of the barbaric one child per couple policy, a cruel policy that has made brothers and sisters illegal and relies on forced abortion—a crime categorized as a “crime against humanity” at the Nazi war crime trial at Nuremberg.

As a result of the one child per couple policy, an estimated 100 million girls are missing—dead through sex-selective abortion—which is a gender crime of unimaginable depravity and has made China a magnet for sex trafficking. Chai Ling—one of the heroes of Tiananmen—has launched All Girls Allowed—an NGO that appeals to Beijing, the world, and especially mothers in China to protect the girl child in the womb.

And finally, even the Internet has been turned into a tool of repression and surveillance by the secret police.

The selection of Liu Xiaobo as the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate obliges us to undertake sustained scrutiny and meaningful action.

Indifference or silence or feigned ignorance concerning the Chinese government’s appalling and massive human rights violations simply isn’t an option.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 21, 2010. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

H. Res. 1771, Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules—rollcall No. 657—“yea”.

H.R. 6540, Defense Level Playing Field Act—rollcall No. 658—“yea”.

H.R. 5116, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act—rollcall No. 659—“yea”.

H.R. 2142, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010—rollcall No. 660—“yea”.

H.R. 2751, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act—rollcall No. 661—“yea”.

H.R. 3082, Making Appropriations for Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010 and for other purposes—rollcall No. 662—“yea”.

H.R. 6547, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act—rollcall No. 663—“yea”.

BLACK: THE DOMINANCE OF UNETHICAL BANKING

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent blog post by Professor William Black from the Associate Professor of Economics and Law at the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Professor Black has focused on white collar crime and routing out of fraud in our financial system, both in practice and as a field of academic study. Professor Black’s answers on this CNN blog give direction to our work on cleaning up our financial system of the criminals while protecting those who follow the law. As this Congress

comes to a close and we look to the future, we are faced with the task of doing more to address the challenges of Main Street while holding Wall Street accountable. Professor Black's writing should be one of our guides.

BLACK: THE DOMINANCE OF UNETHICAL BANKING

(By Jay Kernis)

Only on the blog: Answering today's five OFF-SET questions is William K. Black, Associate Professor of Economics and Law at the University of Missouri—Kansas City.

He was the Executive Director of the Institute for Fraud Prevention from 2005–2007. Black also served as litigation director of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, deputy director of the FSLIC, SVP and General Counsel of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, and Senior Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Thrift Supervision. He was also deputy director of the National Commission on Financial Institution Reform, Recovery and Enforcement.

You say that fraud by America's major banks plays an enormous continuing role in the country's financial crisis. How widespread is the fraud and what are the most serious charges?

The FBI testified in September 2004 that mortgage fraud was "epidemic" and predicted that it would cause an "economic crisis" if it were not contained. Instead of being contained, FBI data show that it grew enormously after 2004. The mortgage lending industry's own anti-fraud experts (MARI) warned in 2006 that "liar's" loans deserved their name—MARI reported a study finding that 80% of such loans were fraudulent. MARI warned that liar's loans were "an open invitation to fraudsters."

In a liar's loan the lender agrees not to verify the borrower's income, wealth, job, and debts. The lender and its agents, loan brokers, can then make up those numbers to make the loan appear to be only moderately insane and sell the fraudulent loan to an entity, typically an investment banking firm or Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, who will pool thousands of fraudulent loans together and create a toxic financial derivative called a "CDO." The rating agencies and investment bankers knew they had to engage in the financial version of "don't ask; don't tell" on these CDOs because if they ever really kicked the tires they would all explode—the frauds in the underlying liar's loans from which the CDOs were supposed to "derive" their value were that obvious and common.

A credit ratings firm couldn't give a "AAA" rating (the highest possible—the rating that virtually all these toxic derivatives were given) if it looked at a sample of the loans—so they religiously did not kick the tires on the liar's loans. So we had the farce of "credit rating" agencies whose expertise was supposedly in reviewing credit quality never looking at that credit quality so that they could make enormous fees by giving toxic waste pristine "AAA" ratings.

The investment banks couldn't sell the financial derivatives loans to others if the investment bankers (whose supposed expertise was evaluating credit risk) were to actually look at credit quality of the underlying liar's loans. If they looked, they'd document that the loans were overwhelmingly fraudulent. They'd then have three options.

A. They could sell the CDOs to others by calling them wonderful "AAA" investments—while having files proving that they knew this was a lie. This option is the prosecutor's dream.

B. They could have sued the lenders that sold them the fraudulent liar's loans. The investment banks typically had a clear contractual right to force the fraudulent loans to buy back the liar's loans. But there were

fatal problems with that option. The lenders that made liar's loans typically had minimal capital (net worth). If the investment banks had demanded that they repurchase the loans they would have been unable to do so—and the demand would have exposed the investment banks' bright shining lie that by pooling liar's loans they could create "AAA" CDOs. Every CDO purchaser from the investment banks would then demand that the investment banks repurchased their CDOs—which would have caused virtually every large U.S. investment bank to fail.

C. They could have gone to the Justice Department and expose the massive fraud that was destroying the American economy and help the FBI investigate the lenders specializing in making liar's loans, the corrupt appraisers, and the credit rating agencies. But that would have caused the CDO bubble to burst and the investment banks to fail.

That's why the industry went with the fourth option—"don't ask; don't tell." It's like the famous fable of the emperor and the fraudulent designer. The designer tells everyone that he has created clothes for the emperor of such beauty that only the most sophisticated people can even see the clothes. The emperor and his cronies all agree that the clothes are glorious. The fraud only collapses when a boy blurts out: "the emperor is naked." As long as no one engaged in the frauds pointed out that you can't make a "AAA" rating out of a pool of massively overvalued fraudulent loans the housing bubble could hyper-inflate and the officers of the investment banks and credit rating agencies could become wealthy beyond their dreams.

I cite a study by Fitch, the smallest of the Big 3 rating agencies later that documents the endemic nature of the fraud in the nonprime mortgages backing the CDOs. That study does not contradict the "don't ask; don't tell" strategy because Fitch only published it in November 2007—after the secondary market that created CDOs collapsed and it would not lose any fees by asking and telling about the endemic fraud.

The industry sharply increased the number of liar's loans after MARI's warnings that they were overwhelmingly fraudulent. Fitch reviewed a small sample of the nonprime loan and found that there was evidence of fraud in "nearly every" file they reviewed and that the frauds were obvious on the face of the loan and servicing files and would have been discovered by any competent loan underwriting process. Self-reviews by fraudulent nonprime lenders have consistently revealed pervasive fraud in liar's loans. Reviews by independent experts demonstrate that fraud was endemic in liar's loans.

My testimony to the Senate and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC) explains why the number of criminal referrals the FBI receives annually extrapolates to millions of frauds. There were no formal definitions of an "alt a" or "stated income" loan (the two most common euphemisms for liar's loans and, therefore, all the data are best guesses), but Credit Suisse reported in 2007 that by 2006, 49% of new mortgage loans in the U.S. were stated income (liar's loans). If one assumes an 80% fraud incidence—which is the low end of published studies by independent experts—that translates into millions of fraudulent loans being made in 2006 alone.

State Attorney Generals' investigations have found that it was lenders and their agents who put the lies in "liar's" loans. The NY AG found, for example, that Washington Mutual (WaMu), which specialized in nonprime loans, (and is the largest bank failure in U.S. history) kept a "black list" of appraisers. Appraisers got on the black list, however, if they refused to provide WaMu

with inflated (fraudulent) appraisals. Survey data of appraisers confirms that nonprime lenders and their agents commonly coerced appraisers to inflate market values. The borrower has no leverage to coerce appraisers.

There is no honest reason for a lender to seek, or permit, appraisals to be inflated. White-collar criminologists and competent banking regulators recognize that appraisal fraud is a superb "marker" of "control fraud"—the devastating frauds in which the senior officers that control a seemingly legitimate firm use it as a "weapon" to defraud. Iowa Attorney General Miller testified before the Federal Reserve in 2007 that his investigations found that the lenders and the agents typically prompted or even directly provided the false information in nonprime loan applications.

This makes sense because only lenders and loan brokers would know the key debt-to-income and loan-to-value ratios that would make the borrowers' application more likely to be approved and generate the largest fees to the lenders and their agents. AG Miller even aptly described the "Gresham's" dynamic that prevailed in nonprime lending. A Gresham's dynamic arises in this context when lenders and loan brokers that cheat gain a competitive advantage over honest lenders and agents. The result can be a race to the bottom in which those with no ethics drive the ethical from the marketplace.

Attorneys General in 50 states are investigating mortgage fraud and foreclosure fraud. Do you think this was bad book-keeping or are banks intentionally doing something illegal?

I've explained why the data demonstrate that mortgage fraud, particularly via liar's loans, was endemic, intentional, and driven by the lenders and their agents. Lenders and agents engaged in mortgage fraud do not want to keep accurate records, for those records could provide a roadmap for prosecuting them. The dearth of records was one of the key attractions of liar's loans to these lenders and their agents. That dynamic means that records are commonly missing at lenders engaged in fraud.

Keeping good records is also a pain for loan officers. It is a cost—it slows them down from making new (fraudulent) loans that drive their income. Another marker of loan fraud is paying loan officers large bonuses based on loan volume instead of loan quality—everyone in the trade knows this ends in disaster. But the failure of the lender is not a failure of the fraud scheme. Here's the four-part recipe for lenders maximizing fictional short-term accounting income (thereby maximizing their bonuses). Note that the same recipe maximizes real losses:

A. Grow extremely rapidly
B. Make very bad loans at high interest rates ("yield")
C. Use extreme leverage (high debt relative to you equity)

D. Provide grossly inadequate loss reserves
A lender that follows this recipe is mathematically guaranteed to report record (albeit fictional) income in the near term—and to cause massive losses in the longer term. This is why the Nobel prize winning economist, George Akerlof and his colleague Paul Romer wrote the famous 1993 article entitled: "Looting: the Economic Underworld of Bankruptcy for Profit." They describe accounting fraud as "a sure thing." The lender fails, but the senior officers walk away wealthy. Since 1993, things have become far worse—we now often bail out the failed lenders and leave the thieves in charge.

But a lender making thousands of bad loans has to gut its "back office" operations—the folks who are supposed to document loans and prevent bad loans. We know that this is exactly what happened. Bank officers and employees of nonprime lenders

were reamed out by their superiors if they tried to block the bad loans. This dynamic is an independent reason why recordkeeping at the nonprime lenders is often horrific.

Finally, lenders like Bank of America, Citibank, and WaMu acquired major nonprime lenders that were notorious for their predatory and fraudulent lending. These banks then often place the employees they obtained via these mergers in charge of loan servicing. It was utterly predictable that they would continue their unethical practices when they functioned as loan servicers—particularly because the alternative would be to admit that their loan servicing files were a shambles. Far better to simply file false affidavits and claim that everything was in order—which is exactly what many of the largest loan servicers did ten thousand times a month.

This is one of the reasons that my colleague Randy Wray and I have called for Bank of America to be placed promptly into receivership. A minor blue collar thief can go to prison for life under some “three strikes” laws—a huge bank doesn’t even suffer a major loss of reputation when it commits a hundred thousand felonies. The U.S. now has its own version of crony capitalism that has produced recurrent, intensifying financial crises—just as crony capitalism does in many nations. The difference is that our economy is so massive that when we have a crisis many nations suffer. When a nation’s elites are able to cheat with impunity the result is always disastrous.

What should President Obama and Congress be doing right now to regulate the banks in a meaningful and fair way?

Economists, white-collar criminologists, and regulators agree that the key is to stop, or at least limit, perverse incentives. Intensely criminogenic environments lead to epidemics of control fraud. There are six key components of what makes an environment dangerously criminogenic.

A. Size matters. A tremendous bubble in the price of persimmons won’t harm the U.S. economy. Real estate bubbles, by contrast, could cause losses that were a large percentage of the U.S. GDP. That’s how you get a Great Recession. Accounting control frauds are particularly dangerous because of they can grow so rapidly and because they tend to cluster in the assets that are most ideal for accounting fraud. The combination of clustering and rapid growth means that epidemics of accounting control fraud can hyper-inflate massive bubbles. Akerlof & Romer and my work have long warned specifically about this danger.

The federal regulatory and prosecutorial agencies are filled with “chief economists,” but there are no “chief criminologists”, no comprehensive federal data on the most destructive white-collar crimes, and virtually zero federal funding for research into the elite financial frauds that have caused trillions of dollars of losses in the U.S. over the last 20 years. We need to do the opposite—hire chief criminologists, keep comprehensive data on the worst frauds, and fund research so that we can actively identify the industries at greatest risk of developing the next epidemic of control fraud. (And this needs to be done not only for banks. The FDA, for example, needs help in spotting frauds that maim and kill.) We then need to act, quickly, to stop those epidemics in their tracks. We did this in 1990-91 as S&L regulators when we stopped the rapid spread of “liar’s” loans at several California S&Ls.

B. Deregulation, desupervision (the rules remain in place but the anti-regulators running the regulatory agencies don’t enforce them) and de facto decriminalization (the three “de’s”) produce the ideal criminogenic environment. The regulators are the “cops

on the beat” when it comes to sophisticated frauds. If you remove the cops of the beat, cheaters prosper and honest businesses are driven from the markets. President Obama largely kept in place the failed anti-regulators he inherited from President Bush. Indeed, Obama promoted Geithner—an abject failure as a regulator in his capacity as President of the NY Fed—and renominated Bernanke, an even greater failure. Obama should fire Attorney General Holder and Treasury Secretary Geithner and ask Chairman Bernanke to resign. He should appoint regulators and prosecutors who have a track record of success.

C. Executive compensation. There is a consensus that executive compensation should be based on long-term (real) profitability. In reality, executive compensation is overwhelmingly based on short-term reported income. (It’s actually worse than that—if the short-term results are bad corporations commonly gimmick the compensation system to reward the senior officers’ failures.) Everyone agrees that short-term reported accounting income is easy to inflate through accounting fraud and virtually everyone agrees that this creates strong, perverse incentives. Since, the current crisis began, the percentage of bonus compensation based on short-term reported income has increased—executive compensation has become more perverse.

Note that executive compensation also allows the CEO to convert the firm’s assets to his personal benefit using seemingly normal corporate mechanisms, which makes it far harder to prosecute the CEO for looting the firm. All bonus income that takes annual income above \$200,000 should be paid after five years—if the firm’s reported income turns out to be real. There should be “clawback” provisions to recover bonuses even after those five years if they were based on corporate income inflated by fraud or “window dressing.”

D. Professional compensation is perverse. Accounting control frauds deliberately exploit this to create the Gresham’s dynamic that allow them to suborn the outside professionals—appraisers, attorneys, auditors, and rating agencies—who are supposed to prevent fraud, but who actually become the frauds’ most valuable allies. Honest professionals don’t get hired, the unethical professionals prosper. This process creates “echo” epidemics of control fraud. Fraudulent nonprime lenders, for example, shaped financial incentives to be perverse to create endemic appraisal and loan broker fraud. The banks should not be able to hire or fire the appraisers, credit rating agencies, and auditors—except for fraud or serious incompetence. Those professionals can only be truly independent if they are assigned to work for the bank by a truly independent entity.

E. The federal government has permitted banks to inflate their reported incomes and “net worth” for the purpose of evading the mandatory statutory duty under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) law to close deeply insolvent banks. Congress, at the behest of the Chamber of Commerce, the banking trade associations, and Chairman Bernanke, successfully extorted the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) to scam the accounting rules so that the banks could fail to recognize on their accounting reports over a trillion dollars in losses.

When banks understate their losses massively they, by definition, overstate their net worth massively. The PCA’s provisions kick in when net worth falls, so the accounting lies have gutted the PCA. The accounting lies also allow the banks to (once again) report high fictional income when they are experiencing large, real losses. This accounting

scam allows the bank executives to collect hundreds of billions of dollars in bonuses. We should end the accounting scam and enforce the PCA.

We are also secretly subsidizing banks and hiding their losses through massive loans from the Federal Reserve backed by toxic collateral. We should end those subsidies and force them to post good collateral.

F. Systemically dangerous institutions (SDIs) have often become far larger and more dangerous since the crisis. The administration is taking no serious steps to protect us against the roughly 20 SDIs even though the administration claims that when one of them next fails it is likely to cause a global financial crisis. Why are we juggling 20 live grenades? The only question is when the next pin will drop out and we’ll be blown up.

The good news about the SDIs is that they have reason to exist. They would be far more efficient if they shrank in size to levels at which they no longer endangered the global economy. We should do three things about the SDIs. One, stop their growth—immediately. Two, order them to shrink over the next five years to a size at which they no longer are SDIs. Let them decide what operations to sell. Three, intensively regulate the SDIs during those five years. That includes placing any insolvent SDIs in “pass through receiverships”—which does not prompt crises.

If there were one questionable banking practice that you could stop today, what would that be?

The foreclosure frauds.

You have spent decades examining what goes on in banks. Do think that bankers, either through culture or genetics, are ethically-challenged?

When you allow a *Gresham’s dynamic* to operate and when entry to an industry is easy (as it was for loan brokers and mortgage bankers), you concentrate the least ethical business leaders in the industry that is most criminogenic. In the last decade, banking has been severely criminogenic in the U.S. and much of the world. The unethical banking leaders became dominant. Their banks, which followed the four-part recipe for maximizing fictional accounting income, became far larger and drew the greatest praise from the business boosters than dominated the financial media. They made their reputations and their fortunes through fraud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 662 and 661, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME
TO SERVE

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Dear Madam Speaker, as I leave Congress as the people’s representative for the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I thank God, who is the head

of my life, for allowing me the blessing of serving in perhaps the most august, deliberate, elected body in the world. I am humbled and honored that the great citizens of Michigan and the people of Detroit chose me for so many years to fight and serve them for more than three decades as a public servant. The many friendships, relationships, and associations I have formed will remain with me forever.

I finally want to thank perhaps the most underappreciated team in any elected body—the staff who have worked for me for those years in the State of Michigan and on Capitol Hill. The tireless dedication, devotion and work will never be forgotten by me or the people to whom you have been so effective and efficient for so long.

I hope and pray for all of my colleagues that we may bring a better world to all Americans, and never flinch from fighting for justice and democratic ideals. We made history. We made difficult decisions. We fought the good fight. We have difficult days ahead, and I remain faithful to protecting the Constitution of the United States and the goals of our great nation.

God bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 658, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 658 (H.R. 6540) my flight was delayed due to weather and had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 110TH AND 111TH CONGRESS

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following: As the Representative for New York's 19th Congressional District, I had numerous significant accomplishments in all aspects of meeting local community needs, individual constituent services, and enacting federal legislation on behalf of my constituents.

I kept my annual promise of holding at least one public event in every town and city in the district to give my constituents an opportunity to speak directly with me about their opinions and concerns. I hosted Town Hall Meetings, Congress on Your Corners, business roundtables, issues forums and workshops throughout all 4 years of my Congressional

service. In addition to these events, I attended numerous community events hosted by local organizations, senior centers, fire departments, schools, etc. I also did a series of "work-a-day" events where I worked alongside a constituent in a local job so I could better understand the day to day challenges they face. Some of these events included working with a nurse at an area hospital, an assembly line worker at a manufacturing plant, a ride along with a delivery truck driver, weatherization installation at a home, installation of a geothermal heat/cooling system at a new senior housing development, and installation of solar energy panels on the roof of an elementary school.

The Congressional offices in Carmel, Goshen, and Washington responded to thousands of constituent opinions and information requests. Hundreds of casework problems were resolved for individuals and families who had problems with federal agencies when applying for Veterans benefits, Social Security and Medicare payments, and expediting passport applications.

The Congressional office provided hundreds of Capitol tours for school classes and families visiting Washington DC, fulfilled flag requests, nominated students to our nation's military service academies, and assisted with federal grant applications.

I cosponsored and voted for important legislation to create and save jobs, cut taxes on middle class families, improve the process for Veterans applying for well deserved benefits, reform financial services regulation, and health insurance reform designed to improve accessibility and affordability. I authored legislation that dramatically improved the Veterans benefits system, streamlining the process for veterans to receive the care and compensation they earned in service to our nation. My legislation is widely regarded as the most sweeping reform of the VA in a generation.

I was proud to bring millions of federal dollars home for local projects that create and save jobs, improve water quality, improve traffic safety and public transportation, build local infrastructure, and save local property tax dollars.

I voted against my own pay raise each time it came before the House, and donated my raise to local non-profit organizations rather than accepting it.

MEETING LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: LOCAL JOBS AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

I worked actively to bring new jobs to the area and save local jobs that were at risk of leaving including:

Kolmar—Successfully assisted in keeping the largest manufacturing company in Western Orange County from leaving the state, thereby retaining hundreds of local jobs in an economically depressed area.

Pepsi Bottling—Successfully assisted with efforts to keep the company's facilities in Northern Westchester when they were considering a move out of state.

SpectraWatt—Instrumental in negotiations to bring a new solar energy manufacturing company to Dutchess County, replacing almost a hundred jobs that had been outsourced overseas. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis visited the site to discuss the local benefits with business and labor leaders. Although recent reports indicate the company is struggling, discussions are still ongoing to keep the jobs in Dutchess County.

I successfully advocated for Stewart Air National Guard Base to receive 8 new C-17 aircraft and all of the support services and local economic development opportunities that go with it. The Air Force made this award after a very competitive national process. I also brought US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to Stewart Airport for a meeting with local business and community leaders to discuss how the airport could be more of an economic engine for the region.

I hosted several small business seminars to inform local businesses about the opportunities created by the federal economic stimulus legislation, including direct tax reductions and capital availability. These events were attended by hundreds of people. In addition, numerous roundtables were held with local business leaders to provide me with direct input as to what they needed to create growth opportunities. These meetings served as the basis for small business tax cut legislation I introduced, several provisions were enacted into law.

Job Opportunity and Training Fairs were held to provide assistance in getting a job including interviewing skills, resume writing, networking, employer connections, adult and continuing education, green jobs, and entrepreneurship and one-on-one consultation. Many local employers attended and were able to talk directly with job seekers who were in attendance.

I brought House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller to the district for a public meeting to inform the community about the provisions of the new Direct Student Loan legislation and how they will make it easier for more students to attend college.

I held workshops for local constituents to provide them with information regarding how to prevent home foreclosure as well as mortgage refinancing options. I brought together local banks and housing counselors for presentations as well as direct individual counseling opportunities.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE:

I sponsored a series of energy independence forums throughout the district to provide practical information to municipalities, businesses, and individuals interested in developing domestic energy resources. These forums focused on wind, solar, hydro and tidal power, as well as biofuels and conservation. I also held an event which brought together solar manufacturers, retailers, and prospective buyers to create markets for local suppliers. Many local projects were developed as a result of the information provided and the introductions made between local providers and businesses.

I helped bring more than \$517m for weatherization funding and energy efficiency grants to New York. This money directly benefited local families who were able to save money on their energy bills by weatherizing their homes, and it created local jobs.

VETERANS

Many Veterans meetings were held throughout the district so I could gain input from local veterans regarding the challenges they face navigating the VA claims and benefits processes generally, as well as a specific challenges resulting from PTSD. Based on what I heard from local Veterans and VSOs, I successfully introduced legislation that significantly streamlined the benefits process, and advocated for a VA rules change regarding handling of PTSD claims. The rules change

makes it much easier for veterans suffering with PTSD to receive the care and compensation they deserve.

I sponsored a Veterans Employment and Education forum to help returning veterans transition from the battlefield to the classroom and the workplace and make sure they are aware of all the benefits they earned. A member of the Wounded Warrior Program works on my Congressional staff.

In addition I hosted a GI Bill forum to train Hudson Valley college admissions and administrative personnel regarding the benefits due to Veterans and how to assist them with the application process.

I strongly advocated for maintaining health care services for veterans at both campuses in Montrose and Castle Point. I also assisted in bringing a new veterans health clinic to Orange County.

I successfully sponsored legislation to name the Chester Post Office in memory of First Lt. Lou Allen, who was killed in Iraq and to name the Port Jervis Post office in memory of former Mayor and Senator Arthur Gray.

SENIORS

I hosted several events to help protect local Seniors from Medicare fraud. Experts were in attendance to provide specific information about scams in the area and how to avoid becoming a victim. In addition, I hosted informational events to prepare individuals and families who are nearing Medicare eligibility to prepare themselves to understand and navigate the many enrollment options and various plans available. Thousands of local Seniors participated in my Tele-Town Hall discussion about how the Health Care Reform law would affect them. Topics covered included closing the

donut hole, free preventative care and wellness visits for seniors, reducing subsidies to Medicare Advantage plans, fighting waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare, and long term care options.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SESSIONS

I became aware of concerns regarding communication between some local law enforcement officials and federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. As a result I requested ICE officials come to the district and provide information to local law enforcement regarding how ICE can assist local law enforcement and ways they could work together to improve public safety.

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Each year my office hosted a Congressional Arts Competition for high school students in my district. The winner's artwork is shown for a year at the Capitol Building in Washington DC and runners up are shown in my local Congressional offices. The Congressional office worked with arts facilities and schools to encourage student artists, review the submissions, and have them shown within the community.

RESOURCE GUIDES

The Congressional office created the following resource guides to assist individuals, organizations, and small businesses with federal government services and opportunities:

Guide to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—Provided details of the federal economic stimulus legislation for individuals, businesses, organizations, and municipalities including information about available funding opportunities and how to apply for and access the funds.

Small Business Assistance Guide—A package of information and local resources for small businesses seeking assistance and information about loan opportunities and other federal and state support programs and developments.

Small Business Guide to the Affordable Care Act—Provided details on Small Business Tax Credits for employer coverage of health premiums and how other provisions of the new health care law affect small businesses.

Senior Handbook—Described resources available for seniors including health care and prescription drug coverage, long term care options, household utilities, VA, meal delivery and nutrition programs, senior centers, and transportation.

Veterans Services Website—Provides information about benefits and services, eligibility requirements, and contact information for local and national agencies and private organizations that provide assistance with healthcare, benefits, education, and employment.

Fire and Emergency Services Grant Resources—A package of information about federal, state and foundation grant opportunities for fire departments and ambulance corps and how to apply for such funds. In addition, the Congressional office hosted annual workshops to provide assistance to local fire departments as to how to write and submit federal grant applications to the Dept of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Jobs Seekers' Handbook—Detailed information regarding resources available to people looking for a job and how to improve individual skills.

Foreclosure prevention tips and resource guide for homeowners.